



# THE 500 MOST INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS



2011



*The Muslim*  
500



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INFLUENTIAL MUSLIMS



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❧ THE 500 MOST ❧  
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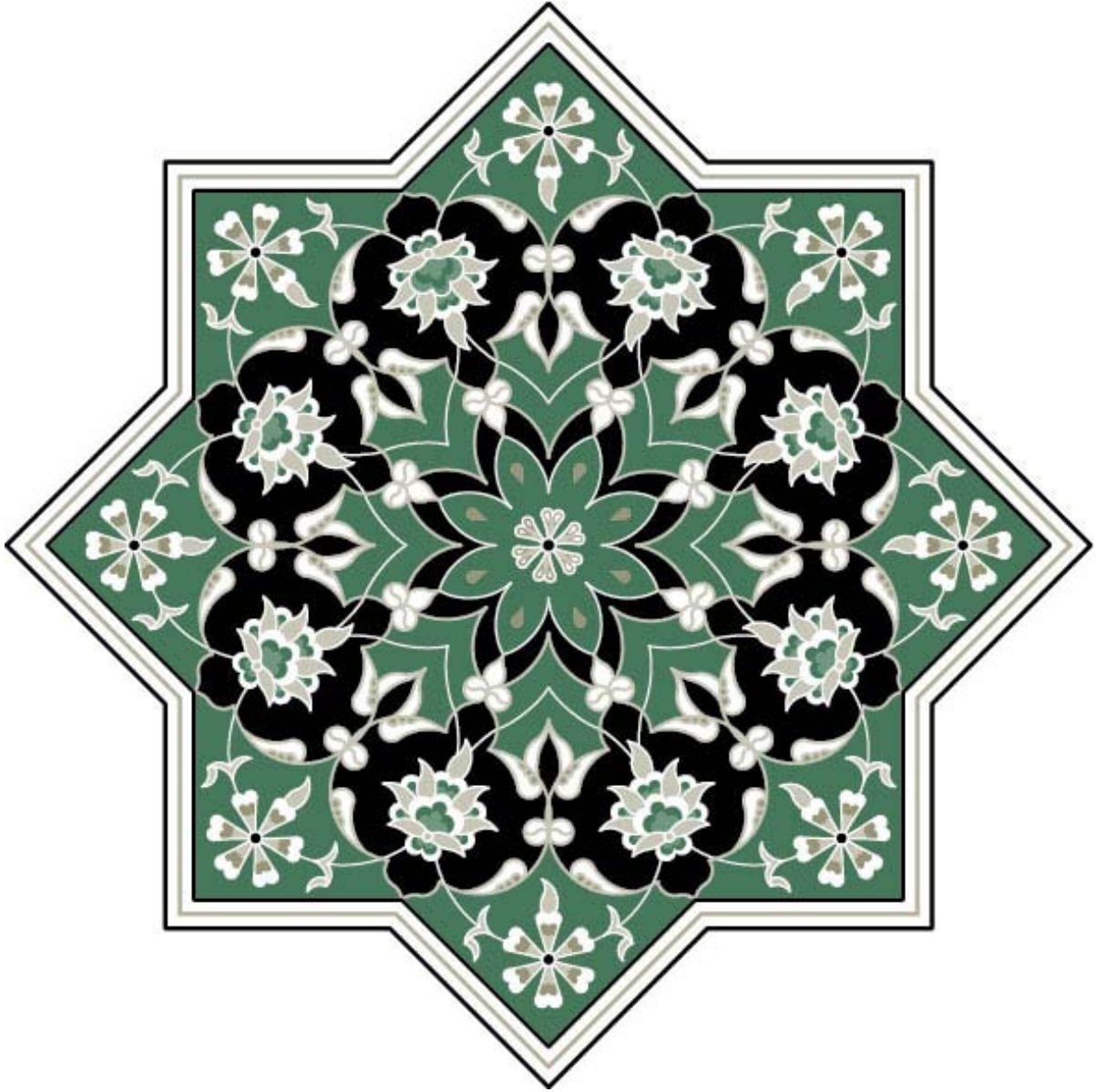
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# INTRO- DUCTION





# Foreword

Welcome to the third annual issue of The 500 Most Influential Muslims.

There are over 1.6 billion Muslims in the world today, making up approximately 23% of the world's population, or more than one-fifth of mankind. As well as being citizens of their respective countries, they also have a sense of belonging to the 'ummah', the worldwide Muslim community.

This publication sets out to ascertain the influence some Muslims have on this community, or on behalf of the community. Influence is: any person who has the power (be it cultural, ideological, financial, political or otherwise) to make a change that will have a significant impact on the Muslim World. Note that the impact can be either positive or negative. The influence can be of a religious scholar directly addressing Muslims and influencing their beliefs, ideas and behaviour, or it can be of a ruler shaping the socio-economic factors within which people live their lives, or of artists forming popular culture. The first two examples also point to the fact that the lists, and especially the Top 50, are dominated by religious scholars and heads of state. Their dominant and lasting influence cannot be denied, especially the rulers, who in many cases also appoint religious scholars to their respective positions. This doesn't discount the influence from other sectors of society.

The publication selects Muslim individuals from a range of categories of influence, 14 in total: (Scholarly, Political, Administration of Religious Affairs, Preachers and Spiritual Teachers, Philanthropy/Charity and Development, Social Issues, Business, Science and Technology, Arts and Culture, Qur'an Reciters, Media, Celebrities and Sports Stars, Radicals, and Issues of the Day).

How to measure this influence is of course the most challenging aspect of the publication, and the one where opinions diverge the most. Influence can sometimes be gauged on a quantitative basis; the number of people influenced, the amount of sales etc, but more often it is related to the qualitative and lasting effect of that influence. The achievements of a lifetime are given more weight than achievements within the current year. This means that our lists of

names will change gradually, rather than dramatically, year-on-year.

This list acts as an opportunity to shed some light on the many challenges and pioneering triumphs that are present at the very crux of shaping the Muslim community.

## What's New

This year's edition includes the following features and additions:

- New size and layout
- Essay on Arab Spring
- Quotes from top 25 and select others
- Stats about the top 25 and select others
- Expanded bios
- Arab Spring box for top 50 (arrows indicating impact of Arab Spring on their influence, not necessarily their overall shift in influence)
- Award-winning photography
- Expanded Honorable Mentions section
- New Obituaries section
- Updated Muslim population stats
- New maps
- Expanded glossary

We also have some exciting plans for our website ([www.TheMuslim500.com](http://www.TheMuslim500.com)) in the upcoming years and ask you to sign up to our email list and keep up with the latest developments.

*The Editors*

# Introduction

Prof. S. Abdallah Schleifer

Much of the Arab portion of the Islamic world has undergone either significant changes in its political leadership and (as of publishing time) significant violence between Muslims in Libya, Yemen and Syria in which non-violent protests turned, for various reasons, into armed struggle against those in authority—be they legitimate or illegitimate; or were simply crushed by overpowering state violence; as in the case of Bahrain.

The prevailing criteria for ‘Most Influential’ has reflected the influence of Muslims as *Muslims* be they in Muslim countries or Muslim-minority communities, large (India) or small (Europe and the Americas) though this is somewhat less so in this year’s listings compared to 2010 and our first edition, in 2009. Nevertheless prominence in political and religious affairs (particularly when political legitimacy overlaps with religious factors) remains, but the actual listings in these categories have been affected by the dramatic events referred to as ‘The Arab Spring’.

Our listings do tend towards a more traditional understanding of Islam than either Islamists (politically engaged fundamentalists) or modernists would have it (see: *The House of Islam* for the editors’ understanding of Traditional Islam), which means that considerations of what constitutes legitimate political rule does, to a degree, impact our ordering of the most influential in the political and religious domains, but not exclusively so. And because of the importance of ‘The Arab Spring’ in all its convoluted manifestations, our introduction to this year’s listings is inescapably far more ‘political’ in concern than would ordinarily be the case.

The traditional Islamic political philosophy of monarchy is summarised by Ghazi bin Muhammad as follows:

‘Traditional, Orthodox Islam has always endorsed monarchy as such. In the Holy Qur’an, God is the

King, *Al-Malik*, (20:114; 23:116; 59:23; 62:1); the King of the Day of Judgement (1:4); the King of the Humankind (114:2), and the Owner of Kingship (3:26). Sovereignty is in His Hand (67:1; 2:107; 5:40; 7:158; 9:116 et al); He has no partner in Sovereignty (17:111), and yet He gives it to whom He pleases (3:26). Kingship is moreover a gift from God (3:26) and a grace (5:20); and it is further ‘strengthened’ by Him (38:20). He has given it to the descendents of the Prophet Abraham (5:54). Indeed, it first came as a result the supplication of a Prophet (Samuel (2:224–247; see also 38:35) in order that Children of Israel might defend themselves. It came with the *Sakinah* (God’s Peace) as Divine Sign confirming it (2:248). At least two Prophets (David (38:20; 25:15–17), and God confirms in the Qur’an the hereditary principle in monarchy (27:16). Moreover, another Prophet (Joseph (12:101)) served a king as his Chief Minister (*‘al-aziz’*—12:88), and he himself thus had ‘something of monarchy’ (12:101). Moreover, it is extremely significant to note that the (good) king of Egypt whom Joseph (12:43 et al) served is always called ‘king’, *‘al-malik’* (12:43 et al) in the Holy Qur’an, whereas the (evil) king of Egypt who rejected Moses (2:49 et al.) is always called ‘Pharaoh’, *‘fir’awn’*.

Similarly, in the *Seerah* [the biography of the Prophet Muhammad (563–632)], the Prophet Muhammad (563–632) sent his cousin Ja’far to seek to the ‘just king’ of Abyssinia (see: *Tafsir Al-Tabari*, vol.9, p.249 on 8:39, and *Tafsir Ibn Kathir*, vol. 2, p.311 on 8:39). The Prophet Muhammad (563–632) also confirmed the kingship of all those kings who entered Islam (such as Himyar in the Yemen, Oman, and Bahrain), and even predicted that monarchy would be in his tribe, the Quraysh (106:1–3): ‘Kingship is from within Quraysh ....’ (Narrated by Al-Tirmithi in *Kitab al-Manaqib, Bab Fadl al-Yameen*, no. 3936.) Indeed, the first four Caliphs—the Prophet’s (563–632) successors—were all kinsmen of the Prophet (563–632), in various degrees, from Quraysh (the Prophet (563–632)

having no sons, nor brothers, nor nephews), in addition to being either his fathers-in-law (Abu Bakr and 'Umar) or his sons-in-law ('Uthman and 'Ali, the latter being, in addition his paternal first cousin). In fact, the central point of contention between Islam's two great denominations (Sunni and Shi'a) is whether all Quraysh or only the Prophet's own descendents through his daughter the Lady Fatimah and his cousin 'Ali should succeed him. How be it, from the time of the death of the Prophet ﷺ until the end of the Second World War, regional monarchy and/or pan-Islamic monarchy (the Caliphate) has always been the only accepted form of government in Islam, and it continues to be so with traditional Muslims in many Islamic countries. Many of the greatest figures of Islam were kings or Caliphs: Walid I; 'Umar bin Abd Al-'Aziz; Abd Al-Rahman Al-Dakhil; Abd Al-Rahman III; Haroun Al-Rashid; Nur Al-Din Zengi; Saladin; Thahir Baybers; Muhammad II Al-Ghazi; Sulayman the Magnificent; Akbar—to name a few. That is not to say that monarchy in Islam ever had a kind of infallibility associated with it, as in the medieval Christian idea of the Divine Right of Kings: on the contrary, kings were there to ensure justice and hence God's laws—justice was not there to justify kings. The Holy Qur'an makes this abundantly clear (5:44–47). Nevertheless,

monarchy was thought of as the best—and perhaps only conceivable—form of government because it can best deliver justice and adherence to God's laws. Islamic Monarchy, moreover, whilst not democratic as such in the modern sense of ultimate power being derived and delivered through universal suffrage, nevertheless makes participative consultation (*shura*) of experts, the learned and the wise (16:43; 21:7; 4:83) incumbent on the ruler (42:38; see also paradigm in 27:32–35). However, although the ruler must consult, he may ultimately choose to make up his own mind (3:159). For it is the truth that serves justice (4:58; 4:135; 5:8; 5:42; 7:28–29; 16:90; 57:25) not the necessarily the will of the majority, who may or may not be wise (39:9; 35:19; 35:28; 32:18), and whose will and judgement thus may or may not be just (6:116; 23:71). Nevertheless universal consensus (*ijma'*) is binding both as a source of law in itself (4:115) and upon rulers' decisions. Indeed, rulers must receive a pledge of allegiance (*bay'a*) (see: 48:10; 48:18, 60:12) before taking office, but having received it, they must be obeyed (4:59; 4:83) as long as they obey God. Revolution against a legitimate ruler is therefore completely forbidden. This is all summarised by the saying of the Prophet ﷺ:

'The best of your Imams are those whom you love and



whom love you, and pray for you, and for whom you pray; and the worst of your Imams are those whom you hate and whom hate you, and those whom you curse and whom curse you'. It was asked: 'Should we not take up arms against them?' The Prophet ﷺ replied: 'No, so long as they have called you to prayer; [even] if you see from them something which you hate, hate the action and do not disobey them.' (Narrated by Muslim in *Kitab al-Imarah, bab kbiyar al-A'imah wa Shirarahom*, no. 1855)<sup>1</sup>

Many years ago, Dr. Yusuf Ibish, the late Professor of Political Thought at the American University in Beirut and mentor of many in his time (including at least two of the Muslim 500) taught a rather obscure course on Islamic Political Thought. That meant the traditional Sunni Islamic political thought of Imam Abdul Hamid Al-Ghazali and the 11th century Imamate theorists such as Al-Baquilani and Al-Mawardi) and not what has come to pass for Islamic/Islamist modern political thought. Modern Islamic or Islamist political thought is usually a coupling of any number of 19th and 20th century Western ideologies – be they left-wing Leninist (Marxist) or right-wing Leninist (Fascist—be that hyper-nationalist or racist) or the kinder ideologies of Social Democracy (the welfare state) and Democracy blended with Islamic pieties: Those pieties invoke shariah, usually without reference to its compassionate application in altered social circumstances as was the practice in a 'medieval' Traditional Islam that was most sensitive to the cultural and political ambiance contemporary to those older times.<sup>2</sup>

Ibish considered the only truly modern political parties in the Arab World in his prime (the nineteen fifties and sixties) to be the Communist Party and the Muslim Brotherhood. From Ibish's neo-traditionalist perspective that was not a compliment, because he felt that only in the anomie of modern industrial mass society would loyalty to the party or political movement transcend all other loyalties. For the traditional Muslim, Ibish argued, political loyalty begins with one's family, one's religious-communal identity, one's clan or tribe, and one's home town or district rather than

to the nation, or the state or the party, or all combined, as in the case of ideologically-driven mass movements in the modern nation-state. As for the nation-state, it too was an unknown phenomenon in the world until the most recent centuries.

The Arab Spring bears him out. One could suggest (however factitiously given the enormous size and historic prestige of the Egyptian armed forces in contrast to the Libyan) that the deposed Egyptian president Hosni Mubarak's greatest mistake was to send his two sons to the American University in Cairo and not to a military academy where they could have acquired skills to lead—as family and or clan loyalists—private armies or special forces (like the Republican Guard) that would in time surpass the regular armed forces of Egypt. The same facetious remark could be made about Tunisia's deposed President Ben Ali. Even the Republican coup d'états of past decades which in time became revolutionary in their social transformative effect, while motivated at the highest levels of then relatively marginal ideologies in the earliest post-World War II years (Ba'athist, Nasserist Arab Nationalist, Marxism in the late Marxist republic of South Yemen and Islamist in Sudan and Iran) had significant popular support, if not as in Egypt's case, even ecstatic popular support, because in that same traditional political reference, the legitimacy of the ruler, all the way back to the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ was in large part shaped by the ruler's ability and responsibility to command armed forces against domestic criminal disorder and foreign invasion. Nowhere is that more clear than in the survival of the Hashemite dynasty in Jordan (in contrast to the Hashemite dynasty's tragic fate in Iraq) against all odds offered so-to-speak by political pundits. In Jordan the sustained military tradition on the part of the Jordanian kings blends seamlessly into the religious prestige of a dynasty linked to the Prophet ﷺ.

For it is precisely those states where family, sectarian and clan-tribal loyalties prevail in the ruling circles despite the official reigning Republican ideologies—Libya, Yemen and Syria—where relatives of the besieged presidents, with tribal connections and in Syria's case the Alawite communal-sectarian loyalty battle onwards and ferociously against Arab Spring revolutionaries. So Muslim blood is shed by Muslims—the very phenomena dreaded by the traditional Sunni jurists who recalled with dread the domestic bloodshedding in the earliest centuries of Arab/Islamic history typified by revolt, disorder and 'revolution.'

These modern day Arab Republics, are (or are-in-potential) 'hereditary republics', aspiring in Yemen and Libya as Egypt's 'Republican' ruling family so aspired or already established as in the case of Syria. 'Republican' in quotation because the regimes that were based on army coup d'état in much of the Arab world in the fifties and sixties of the

1 Ghazi bin Muhammad, 'Islamic Government and Democracy' (2011)

2 See S. Abdallah Schleifer's discussion of traditional Islamic political thought in a chapter from his *Jihad in Modern Islamic Political Thought*, serialized in its entirety in *The Islamic Quarterly* in the nineteen eighties, with specific reference to Al Baquilani, Al Marwardi and Al Ghazali, and relevant references to Al Bukhari, Ahmed, Ibn Hanbal, Ibn Marja and other muhaditheen, as well as references to commentary by Ibn Jamaa and Ibn Taimiya. and the contemporary scholars Ibish, Gardet, Hamidullah. Gibb, and available with all of Schleifer's other articles in the series at [www.salaam.co.uk/knowledge/schleifer\\_3.php](http://www.salaam.co.uk/knowledge/schleifer_3.php)

past century, were supposed, as good Republicans, to be opposed in principle to the hereditary rule which has prevailed in the Muslim world for most of its history and outside of the Arab World still does, in a very symbolic manner in Malaysia and a more than symbolic (and visible) manner in Brunei.

Indeed the very word *dawla*, which in modern times has come to mean ‘the state’, meant in classical Arabic the revolving turn to rule for any particular dynasty. For it was dynasty not state that defined political authority in the Muslim World (with the extraordinary exception of that slave military meritocracy of the Mamluks). All this prior to modern colonialism’s letting loose the demons of modern European ideologies. Which is why Karl Marx, recording the appalling atrocities of British colonial rule in mid-19th century India nevertheless argued from his own historic perspective that colonialism in general and British colonialism in particular was a positive or ‘progressive’ force in its time.

And those same considerations play out in this year’s ‘Arab Spring’ which in all of its various forms is perceived in most of the media and in the minds of the protestors or armed rebels as ‘revolutions’ in a positive rather than negative sense of the word.

These changes are reflected in this year’s listings. Among the 500 Most Influential Muslims is the Google marketing executive Wael Ghoneim, credited as the author of the Facebook page that endorsed the call for the first mass demonstration in Tahrir. Although it turns out that Ghoneim served as protective cover for the actual author who was Ghoneim’s friend, Ghoneim’s courageous act in turn led to his own imprisonment in the earliest days of the Tahrir Uprising. Ghoneim’s popular Facebook page was named after Khaled Said, victim of obvious police brutality in Alexandria, the second largest city in Egypt.

Also among the 500 is Ahmed Maher, far less well known than Wael Ghoneim, whose fame as the Face of the Tahrir Uprising is largely based on his dramatic and emotionally moving appearance immediately after his release from detention on *Al Ashra Masa’ayn*; the most popular TV talk-show in Egypt, carried by the Egyptian private satellite TV channel, Dream TV. But it was Ahmed Maher, leader of the 6th of April Youth Movement who quietly trained and planned in the new strategies of non-violent public demonstration and organized that first day of the Tahrir Uprising over the course of many months. So it was television media attention (particularly Al-Jazeera’s coverage) as well as social media attention, more than any other factor that propelled, to a degree, the massive number of demonstrators onto the streets of Cairo, Alexandria and Port Said.

The very popular television preachers Amr Khalid and Mo’ez Massoud were also early supporters of the Tahrir Uprising, as was the Egyptian Nobel Peace Prize winner Muhammed El-Baradei and the veteran Egyptian diplomat

Amr Mousa. Yet the real power, when all was said and done, remains (as of going to press) at least formally in the hands of Field Marshal Muhammed Tantawi, head of Egypt’s now ruling Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, also another newcomer to the Muslim 500.

It is not a coincidence that that the street protests either dissipated or have to date been non-violent or relatively non-violent in the three Arab monarchies one would consider the most legitimate of all the various Arab political systems from the perspective of Traditional Islam: The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the Sultanate of Oman and above all, the Sharifian Kingdom of Morocco, where to the surprise of radical demonstrators from the Maoist and militant Islamist movements, demonstrations remained non-violent and never challenged the rule of the monarchy but called for constitutional reform.<sup>3</sup>

This, to the surprise of pundits, particularly blogging

*“Only in the anomie of modern industrial mass society would loyalty to the party or political movement transcend all other loyalties.”*

pundits—be they Eastern or Western—whose understanding of ‘the political’ in contemporary Islamic societies, is shaped by late 19th century-defined ideologies and the even earlier militant secular republicanism known since the French Revolution as *Jacobinist*, or at best the more moderate and not intrinsically anti-religious model of the 18th century American Revolution. Indeed, Edmund Burke, the 18th century English political thinker argued the rebellion in the colonies was not really a revolution at all, simply Englishmen (the Americans) rising up against a tyrannical stacked parliament in defence of their rights as Englishmen. One could argue against the blanket use of the word ‘revolution’ that the American and even the British ‘Glorious Revolution’ which effectively brought the present dynasty to the throne, depended upon an aristocratic presence—a presence that the thoughtful Christian writer C.S. Lewis insisted is a necessity if democracy does not degenerate into plutocracy. That is a tendency first noted by Plato. It could even be reasonably argued, such a process is very much underway in the United States. In fact the USA not a constitutional monarchy due to George Washington’s modesty (his troops offered him an American throne) and the romance of the Roman Republic prevalent among the very aristocrats who led the American Revolution: An aristocracy

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3 Anyone seeking an explanation of the “Moroccan Spring” which has culminated in the King’s own program of constitutional and parliamentary reform being massively approved by a free and fair referendum should read the account written by Ahmed Charai, publisher of the Moroccan weekly magazine *L’Observateur* and available on the Foreign Policy Research Institutes’s website at [www.fpri.org/enotes/201106.charai.morocco.html](http://www.fpri.org/enotes/201106.charai.morocco.html)

based on classical education, public service, noblesse oblige, a sense, at the very least of the necessity of religion (Thomas Jefferson) as well as property—an aristocracy that had all but vanished by late 19th century America.

In neither Egypt nor Tunisia were the rulers overthrown by street demonstrators – in both cases it was the Army that decided to send off Ben Ali and Mubarak. In other words, the Uprisings in Tunisia and Egypt did not overthrow the social or political order but were soft coup d'états that may or may not lead to reforms on one hand, or future blood baths on the other. Indeed it is the non-politicized Army (not the 'civilians in uniform' that characterized Nasserist and Ba'athist military coups) with its sense of honour and readiness to sacrifice in *combat*—not suicide—as warriors. And at that, as sacred warriors, as *mujahideen* in the Traditional Islamic sense of armed struggle against the enemy at the frontier or criminal disorder in the streets, that can only be declared by a legitimate political authority in traditional jurisprudence and traditional Sunni political thought.

It is Libya where the Uprising turned armed rebellion most conforms to Traditional Islamic criteria. Gaddafi personally overthrew a relatively constitutional monarchy with Sharifian ties back to the Prophet ﷺ and a spiritual association with a Sufi Tariqa—the Senussiyya. Gaddafi has behaved as a mad or demented man in the course of his rule and his Green Book makes him a heretic in the eyes of traditional Sunni ulema—both grounds for overthrow in traditional Islamic political thought. He also undermined the regular army that brought him to power in favour of the far better equipped private army brigades commanded by his sons and other relatives; thus undermining the traditionally important regular or legitimate armed forces.

It is not a coincidence, and it is a symbol of legitimacy that the flag raised by rebels or Free Libyan Army in its fight against Gaddafi is the flag of Libyan Independence; i.e. the flag of the Senussi dynasty overthrown by Gaddafi. Unfortunately, while the various rebel brigades fought and triumphed under the Libyan Monarchy's flag, they did not fight and triumph under the unifying goal and leadership, however symbolic, of a restored Senussi King, which has resulted most recently in serious skirmishes between rival brigades. It is also sad as well as ironic that this, the most legitimate (from a traditional Islamic perspective) of all the Uprisings or revolutions that constitute The Arab Spring, is most subject to criticism or disinterest by many Arab, Muslim and Western commentators—despite Arab League and UN blessings of a Nato + Qatar + UAE intervention against Gaddafi. That Gaddafi had vowed to slaughter the rebel population of Benghazi and would have carried out such a massacre, but for the last minute intervention of the French Air Force seems irrelevant to many left-wing critics. The curious but predictable reaction was that France, England and America were fighting for control of Libyan oil, but the West (and in particular the oil companies) had

already made a favourable peace with Qaddafi some years ago, and it was with reluctance that both Presidents Sarkozy and Obama intervened under intense pressure from influential intellectuals (many of whom, at least in America, are Muslim) in both France and America.

But this year's edition does not reflect just changes in the political order. It includes more examples of Muslim celebrities who are not necessarily known for their participation in public life as self-conscious Muslims.

❧ The ❧  
HOUSE  
OF ISLAM

# ❁ The House of Islam ❁

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(with the exception of President Obama's speech)

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 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 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 [proclaiming]: 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 seest He thee.' 'Thou hast spoken truly,' he said... Then the stranger went away, and I stayed a while after he had gone; and the Prophet said to me: 'O 'Umar, knowest thou 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.'*<sup>1</sup>

Thus Islam as such consists of 'five pillars': (1) the Shihadatayn or the 'two testimonies 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'.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup>

## The Canon of Islam

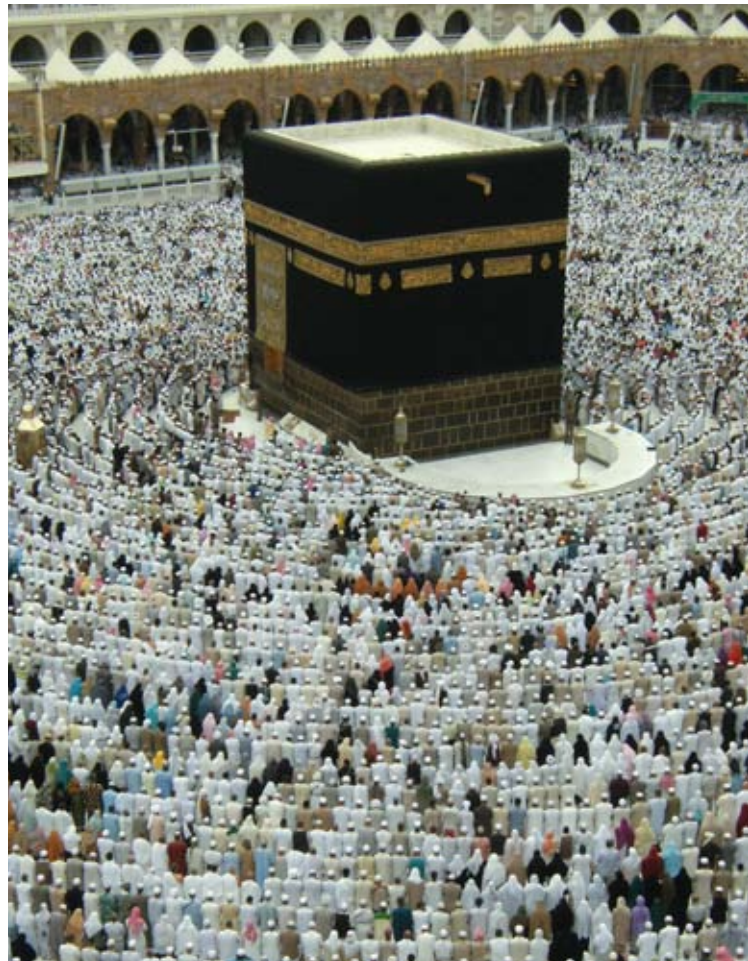
<sup>1</sup> Sahih Muslim, 'Kitab al Iman', 1, N.I. (The Hadiths of the Prophet, like all sacred texts, are written above in italics).

<sup>2</sup> Sahih Muslim, 'Kitab al Iman', 18, n. 72.

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

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 has it held together—and indeed, flourished—for the last fourteen centuries approximately, when its scholars and temporal policymakers keep changing and dying out over time? How has it remained so homogeneous that the Islam of 1900 CE was doctrinally exactly the same as the Islam of 700 CE? Where have its internal checks and balances come from?

The answer is that Islam has a traditional canon:<sup>4</sup> 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 ulema and muftis or sheikhs and 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



<sup>4</sup> Even the English word 'canon' comes from the Arabic word kanun meaning 'law' or 'principle'.

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 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 (it self 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.’<sup>5</sup>

On 4 June, 2009, US President Barack Obama said the following at Cairo University:

‘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.

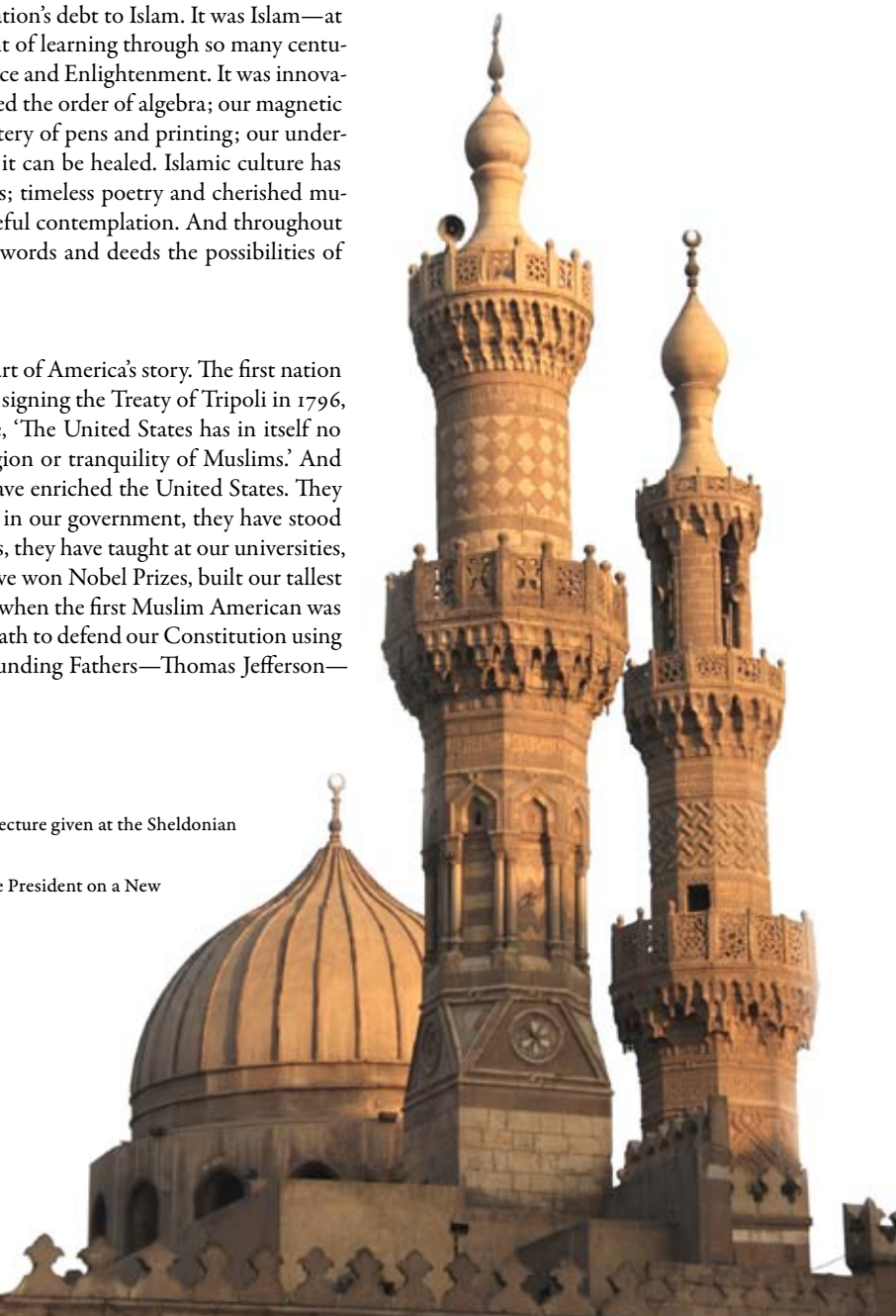
I also know that Islam has always been a part of America’s story. The first nation to recognize my country was Morocco. In signing the Treaty of Tripoli in 1796, our second President, John Adams, wrote, ‘The United States has in itself no character of enmity against the laws, religion or tranquility 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.’<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>5</sup> HRH the Prince of Wales, ‘Islam and the West’, a lecture given at the Sheldonian Theatre, Oxford on October 27th, 1993, pp.17-18.

<sup>6</sup> Barack Obama’s speech in Cairo, ‘Remarks by the President on a New Beginning’ June 4, 2009.

TOP LEFT: A manuscript of Jazuli’s Dalail Al-Khayrat  
LEFT: Alhambra Palace in Spain  
RIGHT: Al Azhar Mosque



# Major Doctrinal Divisions in Islam

## Sunni Theology

### 1) Ash'ari and Maturidi Schools: Sunni Orthodoxy<sup>1</sup>

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 9th 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 9th 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

This school was developed around the doctrines of 18th century scholar **Muhammad ibn Abd al Wahhab** (1703-1792 CE). Salafis have specific doctrinal beliefs, owing to their particular interpretation of Islam, that differentiate 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

This school was developed between the 8th and 10th centuries. Although it is traced back to **Wasil ibn Ata** (d. 748 CE) in Basra, theologians **Abu al Hudhayl al 'Allaf** (d. 849 CE) and **Bishr ibn al Mu'tamir** (d. 825 CE) are credited with formalizing its theological stance. Mu'tazili thought 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.

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<sup>1</sup> Orthodoxy in Islam is based on verse 2:285 of the Holy Qur'an, and has been best defined by the historical 2005 international Islamic consensus on the 'three points' of the Amman Message (see: the Amman Message at the end of this section):

## *ii. Major Doctrinal Divisions Within Islam (continued)*

### Shi'a Theology

#### 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 (*Umma*). The twelfth Imam, the Mahdi, is believed to be in occultation to return in the future.

#### 2) Isma'ili School

The Qur'an and *Hadith* 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.

### Ibadi Theology

#### 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.

# III. Ideological Divisions

## Traditional Islam

(96% of the world's Muslims)

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

(1% of the world's Muslims)

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

(3% of the world's Muslims)

This is a highly politicized religious ideology popularized in the 20<sup>th</sup> century through movements within both the Shi'a and Sunni branches of Islam—characterized by aggressiveness and a reformist attitude toward traditional Islam.

## IIIa. Traditional Islam

Sunni (90% of the world's traditional 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 Sunni 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 (767-820 CE/ 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)

#### Shi'a (9.5% of the world's traditional 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

##### Zaidis (Fivers) (Less than 1%)

Named after the followers of **Imam Zaid ibn 'Ali** (695-740 CE) in Medina.

##### Twelvers (8%)

Named after the followers of **Imam Ja'far al Sadiq** (702-765 CE/ 83-148 AH) in Medina.

##### Isma'ilis (Seveners) (Less than 0.5%)

Named after the followers of **Muhammad ibn Ismail** (746-809 CE/128-193 AH) in Medina.

#### Schools of Islamic Law for Twelver Shi'a

##### Usuli

99% of Twelvers. This dominant school favors the use of *ijtihad*, independent legal reasoning, with an emphasis on four accepted collections of *Hadith*. Derive legal opinions from living *ayatollahs*, or *mujtahids*, whose rulings become obligatory. *Taqlid*, the practice of following rulings without questioning the religious authority, is a core tenet of this school. The name Usuli is derived from the Arabic term *usul* meaning 'principle.'

##### Akhbari

Akhbaris reject the use of *ijtihad* or reasoning, and do not follow *marjas* who practice *ijtihad*. They also prohibit exegesis of the Qur'an. Derive legal rulings from the Qur'an, *Hadith*, and consensus. The name Akhbari is derived from the Arabic term *akhbar* meaning 'traditions'. They can trace their roots to the followers of **Muhammad Amin Astarabadi** (d. 1627 CE). Akhbaris continue to exist to this day, although in small, concentrated pockets, particularly around Basra, Iraq.

#### Ibadi (0.5% of the world's traditional 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.

### 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 CE participated in 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

##### Naqshbandiyya

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

##### Chishtiyya

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

##### Qadiriyya

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

##### Mawlawiyya

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

##### Tijaniyya

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

##### Rifa'iyya

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

##### Shadhiliyya

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

##### Yashrutiyya

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

##### Kubrawiyya

(d. 1221 CE) from Khawarzm, modern day Uzbekistan. **Influence:** mostly present across Central Asia.

##### Badawiyya

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

##### Suhrawardiyya

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

##### Khalwatiyya

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

#### Shi'a Orders

##### Irfan

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



## 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 CE) 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 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. Muhammad ibn 'Abd al Wahhab (1703-1792 CE) 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 the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini (1902-1989 CE), 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 an object of derision and ridicule, and is scorned by traditional Muslims and fundamentalists alike.



## The Amman Message

www.AmmanMessage.com

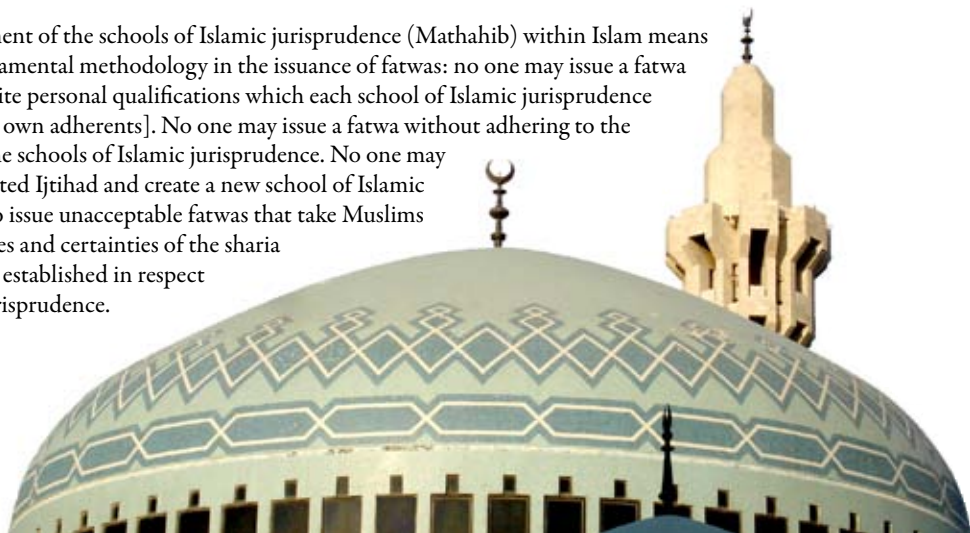
Orthodoxy in Islam is based on verse 2:285 of the Holy Qur'an, and has been best defined by the historical 2005 international Islamic consensus on the 'three points' of the Amman Message, these points being:

(a) Whosoever is an adherent to one of the four Sunni schools (*mathabib*) of Islamic jurisprudence (Hanafi, Maliki, Shafi'i and Hanbali), the two Shi'a schools of Islamic jurisprudence (Ja'fari and Zaydi), the Ibadi school of Islamic jurisprudence and the Thahiri school of Islamic jurisprudence, is a Muslim. Declaring that person an apostate is impossible and impermissible. Verily his (or her) blood, honour, and property are inviolable. Moreover, in accordance with the Sheikh Al Azhar's fatwa, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare whosoever subscribes to the Ash'ari creed or whoever practices real Tasawwuf (Sufism) an apostate. Likewise, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare whosoever subscribes to true Salafi thought an apostate.

Equally, it is neither possible nor permissible to declare as apostates any group of Muslims who believes in God, Glorified and Exalted be He, and His Messenger (may peace and blessings be upon him) and the pillars of faith, and acknowledges the five pillars of Islam, and does not deny any necessarily self-evident tenet of religion.

(b) There exists more in common between the various schools of Islamic jurisprudence than there is difference between them. The adherents to the eight schools of Islamic jurisprudence are in agreement as regards the basic principles of Islam. All believe in Allah (God), Glorified and Exalted be He, the One and the Unique; that the Noble Qur'an is the Revealed Word of God; and that our master Muhammad, may blessings and peace be upon him, is a Prophet and Messenger unto all mankind. All are in agreement about the five pillars of Islam: the two testaments of faith (shahadatayn); the ritual prayer (salat); almsgiving (zakat); fasting the month of Ramadan (sawm), and the Hajj to the sacred house of God (in Mecca). All are also in agreement about the foundations of belief: belief in Allah (God), His angels, His scriptures, His messengers, and in the Day of Judgment, in Divine Providence in good and in evil. Disagreements between the ulema (scholars) of the eight schools of Islamic jurisprudence are only with respect to the ancillary branches of religion (*furū'*) and not as regards the principles and fundamentals (*usul*) [of the religion of Islam]. Disagreement with respect to the ancillary branches of religion (*furū'*) is a mercy. Long ago it was said that variance in opinion among the ulema (scholars) 'is a good affair'.

(c) Acknowledgement of the schools of Islamic jurisprudence (Mathahib) within Islam means adhering to a fundamental methodology in the issuance of fatwas: no one may issue a fatwa without the requisite personal qualifications which each school of Islamic jurisprudence determines [for its own adherents]. No one may issue a fatwa without adhering to the methodology of the schools of Islamic jurisprudence. No one may claim to do unlimited Ijtihad and create a new school of Islamic jurisprudence or to issue unacceptable fatwas that take Muslims out of the principles and certainties of the sharia and what has been established in respect of its schools of jurisprudence.



❧ The Top ❧

50

# The Top 50

1. His Majesty King Abdullah bin 'Abd Al 'Aziz Al Saud  
King of Saudi Arabia, Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques
2. His Majesty King Mohammed VI  
King of Morocco
3. His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan  
Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey
4. His Majesty King Abdullah II bin Al Hussein  
King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
5. His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Hajj Sayyid Ali Khamenei  
Supreme Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran
6. His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani  
Emir of Qatar
7. His Eminence Professor Dr Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al Tayyeb  
Grand Sheikh of the Al Azhar University, Grand Imam of the Al Azhar Mosque
8. Dr. Mohammed Badie  
Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood
9. His Majesty Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Aal Sa'id  
Sultan of Oman
10. His Eminence Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Sistani  
Marja of the Hawza, Najaf, Iraq
11. His Excellency President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono  
President of Indonesia
12. His Eminence Sheikh Dr Ali Goma'a  
Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic of Egypt
13. Sheikh Dr Yusuf Al Qaradawi  
Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars
14. His Eminence Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Abdullah Aal Al Sheikh  
Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
15. Hodjaefendi Fethullah Gülen  
Turkish Muslim Preacher
16. Hajji Mohammed Abdal Wahhab  
Amir of Tablighi Jamaat, Pakistan
17. Dr. K.H. Said Aqil Siradj  
Chairman of Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama
18. His Highness General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan  
Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces
19. Sheikh Salman Al-Ouda  
Saudi Scholar and Educator
20. Sheikh Dr M Sa'id Ramadan Al Bouti  
Leading Islamic Scholar in Syria
21. Dr Amr Khaled  
Preacher and Social Activist
22. His Royal Highness Shah Karim Al Hussayni  
The Aga Khan IV, 49th Imam of Ismaili Muslims
23. Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah  
Secretary General of Hezbollah
24. Her Eminence Sheikhha Munira Qubeysi  
Leader of the Qubeysi Movement
25. His Royal Eminence Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III  
Sultan of Sokoto

26. His Eminence Sheikh Ahmad Tijani Ali Cisse,  
Leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi Order
27. His Excellency President Abdullah Gül  
President of the Republic of Turkey
28. Mufti Akhtar Raza Khan Qadiri Al-Azhari  
Barelwi Leader and Spiritual Guide
29. His Majesty Sultan Haji Hassanal Bolkiah  
Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah  
Sultan and Yang Di-Pertuan of Brunei Darussalam
30. His Eminence Mohammad bin Mohammad  
Al Mansour  
Imam of the Zaidi Sect of Shi'a Muslims
31. His Eminence Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah  
Deputy-Head of the International Union of Muslim  
Scholars
32. His Eminence Justice Sheikh Muhammad  
Taqi Usmani  
Leading Scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence
33. Dr Aaidh Al Qarni  
Saudi Scholar
34. Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah  
Queen of Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan
35. Sheikh Mohammad Ali Al Sabouni  
Scholar of Tafsir
36. H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas  
President of the Palestinian National Authority
37. Habib Umar bin Hafiz  
Director of Dar Al Mustafa, Tarim, Yemen
38. Her Highness Sheikha Mozah Bint Nasser  
Al Missned  
Chairperson of the Qatar Foundation
39. Khaled Mashaal  
Leader of Hamas
40. Professor Dr M Din Syamsuddin  
Chairman of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia
41. Maulana Mahmood Madani  
Leader and Executive Member of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind,  
India
42. Habib Ali Zain Al Abideen Al-Jifri  
Director General of the Tabah Foundation, UAE
43. Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson  
Founder of Zaytuna Institute, USA
44. His Eminence Sheikh Professor Dr Mustafa Ceric  
Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina
45. His Excellency Professor Dr Ekmelledin Ihsanoglu  
Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic  
Conference
46. His Holiness Dr Syedna Mohammad  
Burhannuddin Saheb  
The 52nd Da'i l-Mutlaq of the Dawoodi Bohras
47. Professor Dr Seyyed Hossein Nasr  
Islamic Philosopher
48. Sheikh Mehmet Nazim Adil Al-Qubrusi  
Al-Haqqani  
Leader of Naqshbandi-Haqqani Sufi Order
49. His Excellency Dr Abd Al Aziz bin 'Uthman  
Altawaijiri  
Secretary General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization
50. His Excellency Dr Aref Ali Nayed  
Scholar & Libyan Ambassador to the UAE.

Country: Saudi Arabia  
Born: 1 Aug 1923 (age 88)  
Source of Influence: Political  
Influence: King with authority over 26 million residents of Saudi Arabia and approximately 14 million pilgrims annually  
School of Thought: Moderate Salafi  
2009 Rank: 1  
2010 Rank: 1  
2011 Rank: 1

“I only hope that ... a new world will emerge out of the rubble of the World Trade Center: a world that is blessed by the virtues of freedom, peace, prosperity and harmony.”  
*King Abdullah*

70,000

The number of Saudi students who have studied abroad, mainly funded by his government scholarship program.

\$400<sup>BIL</sup>

The amount King Abdullah has pledged to spend by the end of 2014 to improve education, health care, and the kingdom's infrastructure.



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*His Majesty, King*

Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud

# H.M. King Abdullah bin Abdul-Aziz Al Saud

## King of Saudi Arabia & Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

King Abdullah is the most influential Muslim in the world. His global influence comes from being the absolute king of the most powerful Arab nation: it has the two holy cities of Mecca and Madina, which millions of Muslims visit throughout the year; its role as the world's main exporter of crude oil and refined petroleum products ensures its central international role in politics and the world economy, and its huge da'wa network makes its influence felt in all Muslim countries. 🕌

### Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques

The king has significant influence in the global Muslim community through his custodianship of the two holy cities of Mecca and Medina. Mecca is the main pilgrimage site for 1.5 billion Muslims. Each year approximately 4 million pilgrims perform the Hajj. In addition to this approximately 10 million pilgrims (including Saudi residents and GCC citizens) perform the *umrah*, 'the lesser Hajj'.

### Controller of World's Largest Oil Reserves

He reigns over a land of massive crude oil reserves—Saudi Arabia has approximately 20 percent of the world's proven oil reserves—making him a key player in the global petroleum industry.

### Head of World's Largest Da'wa Network

King Abdullah is also head of the most extensive da'wa network of missionary Muslims in the world, promoting the Salafi brand of Islam. Salafism is historically rooted in Saudi Arabia, and owes its global spread to the financial backing of Saudi Arabia.

### Reformer & Philanthropist

The king has proven his domestic influence in Saudi Arabia through his ability to enact multiple landmark reforms to fight fundamentalism, 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:

- Granted women the right to vote in municipal elections
- Spent over \$60 billion in benefits to Saudi citizens—including housing and jobs, while introducing a minimum wage of \$800 per month

- Opened the largest women-only university in the world, with a capacity of 12,000 students
- Presented a \$10 billion endowment to the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
- Issued a royal decree allowing only the Council of Senior Islamic Scholars to issue fatwas (religious edicts)
- Increased the representation of minorities in Saudi governance including increased Shi'a representation in the Shura Council
- Transferred authority of educational administration to the education establishment instead of religious leaders
- Convened a global interfaith summit in 2008 and subsequently issued the Madrid Declaration, which calls for tolerance between religions and a culture of peace
- Been 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 hundreds of millions in cash and relief materials for many devastated areas worldwide and pledged a \$1 billion donation towards the reconstruction of the Palestinian coastal territory during the Israeli war on Gaza .

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Although there have been small demonstrations in Saudi Arabia, they have been rejected by the Salafi majority and by the perception that the King was already reforming at a pace compatible with Saudi society.
- Unveiled a 130 billion economy incentive plan inside Saudi Arabia.
- Hosted Ben Ali and called for revolt against Gaddafi.
- Arguably the biggest bulwark for stability in the Arab World.
- Supported the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Country: Morocco  
Born: 21 Aug 1963 (Age 48)  
Source of Influence: Political, Administrative, Development  
Influence: King with authority over 32 million Moroccans  
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki  
2009 Rank: 3  
2010 Rank: 5  
2011 Rank: 2

“We all have an obligation... to display higher levels of mobilisation, vigilance, foresight and entrepreneurship, in a joint effort to bring Morocco in line with developed countries.”  
*King Mohammed VI*

25  
The number of kings who have ruled during the Alaouite dynasty over the past 400 years.

9 MIL  
The number of tourists that visited Morocco in 2010, bringing in nearly \$9 billion dollars of revenue into the economy.



© Abdel Hak Senna / AFP

2  
*His Majesty*  
King Mohammed VI



# H.M. King Mohammed VI

## King of Morocco

The King is 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 has improved foreign relations. King Mohammad VI 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 in Africa. 🌍

### Contender for the Caliphate

As successor to a 400 year-old dynasty, King Mohammad VI's lineage makes him the only legitimate contender for the Islamic Caliphate. The Alaouite Dynasty links back to the Prophet Muhammad. King Mohammad VI possesses the only authentic claim to an Islamic Caliphate, if one were to be established. Indeed, the Moroccans never recognized the Ottoman Caliphate on the grounds that the Ottomans were not descended from the Prophet Muhammad.

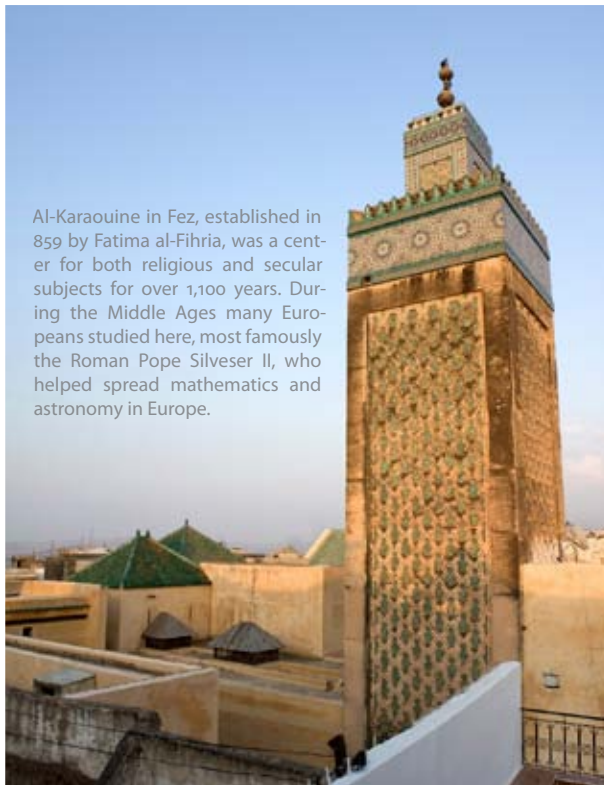
### Control of Maliki Network

Morocco is home to the oldest university in the world, Al-Karaouine. This university is the center of the Maliki school of jurisprudence. This school bases its rulings on the Qur'an and Hadith but also predominantly derives its practices from the work of Malik ibn Anas (711-795 CE) and his texts, the Al Muwatta

and Al Mudawana. Since early in his reign, King Mohammed VI 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 32 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 (1735-1815 CE), the founder of the Tijaniyya 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.



Al-Karaouine in Fez, established in 859 by Fatima al-Fihria, was a center for both religious and secular subjects for over 1,100 years. During the Middle Ages many Europeans studied here, most famously the Roman Pope Silveser II, who helped spread mathematics and astronomy in Europe.

## The Arab Spring ↑

- Responding to demonstrations in the country, King Mohammed VI proposed a series of changes to the country's constitution. Both the prime minister and the parliament would gain powers that were previously the reserve of the King. These proposals were overwhelmingly passed (98% in favour) in a referendum (73% turnout) on July 1.
- He is the big winner of reform and evolution — not revolution — in the Arab Spring; no one was killed in Morocco.

Country: Turkey  
Born: 26 Feb 1954 (age 57)  
Source of Influence: Political  
Influence: Leads government of 75.7 million Turkish citizens  
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni  
2009 Rank: 3  
2010 Rank: 2  
2011 Rank: 3

“What should be targeted is a concept of organic, and not just mechanic, democracy that preserves the rule of law, separation of powers, and that is participatory and pluralistic”

*H.E. Recep Erdogan*

40,000

Amount of lives lost in Turkish-Kurdish conflicts in the 25 years prior to Erdogan's presidency.

5.7%

Turkey's inflation rates – the lowest in 39 years. Erdogan inherited an economy with a 34.9% inflation rate when he first came into office.



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*His Excellency*

Recep Tayyip Erdogan

[www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/03](http://www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/03)

# H.E. Recep Tayyip Erdogan

## Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey

Erdogan's party, the AKP (Adalet ve Kalkinma Partisi, the Justice and Development Party), won its third consecutive election in June 2011, securing approximately 50% of the vote and thus making Erdogan the most successful Prime Minister in Turkey's multiparty era. He is the Prime Minister 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 is predominantly religious, and primarily Muslim. The AKP's official ideology is 'conservative democracy'; an attempt to create a Muslim democracy in an aggressively secular country. Under his watch Turkey has become the 16th largest economy in the world and a member of the G20. 🇹🇷

### A Popular Reformist

In September 2010, over 58% of voters supported Erdogan's constitutional referendum which made changes to the constitution in order to bring the constitution into compliance with European Union Standards hence facilitating Turkey's EU membership process.

Erdogan is also leading groundbreaking initiatives to ensure the rights of Turkey's Kurdish population, and its religious minorities—most recently calling for the establishment of an independent anti-discrimination commission, and the launch of a state-run Kurdish language television channel.

### A Mediator

Erdogan insists on a role for Turkey as a mediator and bridge between cultures and civilizations. The Alliance of Civilizations initiative of the United Nations—that Erdogan established with the Spanish president, Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero—has become a key forum for international, intercultural, and interreligious dialogue and cooperation. Turkey is also playing mediating roles in the Libyan and Syrian conflicts.

Erdogan rose to fame as a reformist mayor of Istanbul by combining conservative religious values, a sharp business acumen, and strong leadership abilities in leading Istanbul to a economic boom.

### Outspoken on Gaza

Erdogan is hailed for his strong opposition toward the Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip. He is noted for his high-profile snub of Israeli President Shimon Peres at the World Economic Forum in Davos in 2009, and his criticism of Israel's May 31 raid on a humanitarian flotilla to Gaza, which killed nine Turkish nationals. With Israel refusing to apologise, relations have deteriorated to the point where ambassadors have been recalled, and military cooperation frozen.

### Good Neighbor Policy

Erdogan has led a new approach in Turkish foreign relations through his adoption of a 'good neighbor policy'—in August 2009, Turkey and Armenia signed protocols to improve relations. During Erdogan's leadership, Turkey has focused on building stronger relations with all of its seven land-contiguous neighbors (especially Greece) and also all of those countries bordering the Black Sea (an important trading hub and a geopolitically significant area). In May, 2010 Georgia's president awarded Erdogan the Order of Golden Fleece for his contribution to development of bilateral relations and in November, 2010 he received the Golden Medal of Independence, from Kosovo.



## The Arab Spring ↔

- Although Prime Minister Erdogan took an early position against Ben Ali and Mubarak, a personal friendship with Gaddafi and Bashar Al-Assad had him flip-flopping on Libya and Syria. In his visit to Egypt he called for a 'secular' state which riled the Muslim Brotherhood. Nevertheless, his persistent wrangling with Israel keeps him popular in the Arab World, and Turkey remains an admirable model for a confluence of Islam and democracy.

Country: Jordan

Born: 30 Jan 1962 (Age 49)

Source of Influence: Political, Lineage

Influence: King with authority over approximately 6.4 million Jordanians and outreach to Traditional Islam

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2009 Rank: 4

2010 Rank: 4

2011 Rank: 4

“The fact is, humanity is bound together, not only by mutual interests, but by shared commandments to love God and neighbour; to love the good and neighbour”

*King Abdullah II*

100<sup>MW</sup>

Energy that will be produced at the solar energy site in Ma'an, reducing Jordan's CO2 emissions by as much as 160,000 tonnes a year.

70%

Amount the public debt ratio has decreased pushing external debt as a percentage of GDP down from 189% in 1990 to 25.8% in 2008.



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*His Majesty*

King Abdullah II ibn Al Hussein

# H.M. King Abdullah II ibn 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 during his reign as King of Jordan. He has initiated domestic political reform aiming to establish a parliamentary government. 🌿

### Prophetic Lineage

King Abdullah II is a member of the Hashemite family and the 42nd generation direct descendant of the Prophet Muhammad through the line 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. The Hashemite 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 II maintains a unique prestige in the region. He has gone on record in March 2010 to condemn Israel’s inclusion of West Bank religious sites in its national heritage list.

### Islamic Outreach

King Abdullah II has proven influence at the forefront of a global intrafaith movement, through the creation of the Amman Message; a call for greater intra-religious tolerance and unity in Islam that was endorsed by representatives from all major Muslim groups in 2004. King Abdullah II is credited with the Royal Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought’s most authoritative website on the Qur’an and tafsir or Qur’anic exegesis ([www.altafsir.com](http://www.altafsir.com)). King Abdullah II is also noted for founding the new World Islamic Sciences and Education University in Jordan ([www.wise.edu.jo](http://www.wise.edu.jo)). King Abdullah II is lauded as an interfaith leader for his support of the 2007 initiative, A Common Word—a groundbreaking initiative in Christian-Muslim engagement ([www.acommonword.com](http://www.acommonword.com)).

### Peace Activist

King Abdullah II is the leading player in the dialogue for peace in Israel-Palestine. He has constantly and openly called for discussion in the negotiations toward a two-state solution. He was also the initiator and driving force behind the recently adopted UN World Interfaith Harmony Week Resolution, marking the first week of February an annual celebration of faiths.

RIGHT: His recently published book on the Middle East peace process.

BELOW: The Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, the holiest site for Muslims in the Levant.



## The Arab Spring ↑

- Taking the lead in Jordan, the King opened a national dialogue, changed the constitution and changed the government and the intelligence chief. The King also disarmed his own police to avoid violence and promised parliamentary democracy within a year and a half. Some protestors called for a faster process but no one calls for regime changes. Protests in Jordan have never exceeded 5,000 people.
- His Majesty King Abdullah said the Arab Spring ‘can be an opportunity to institutionalize positive change that is necessary for a strong, secure, prosperous future’.



**Country:** Iran  
**Born:** 17 July 1939 (Age 72)  
**Source of Influence:** Political, Administrative  
**Influence:** Supreme Leader of 75 million Iranians  
**School of Thought:** Traditional Twelver Shi'a, Revolutionary Shi'ism  
**2009 Rank:** 2  
**2010 Rank:** 3  
**2011 Rank:** 5

“The West knows very well that we are not seeking to build nuclear weapons. Nuclear weapons are against our political and economic interests and our Islamic beliefs,”

*Ayatollah Khamenei*

22

The number of years Khamenei has ruled over Iran as the Supreme Leader, being only the second leader in the 31 years since the Iranian Revolution in 1979.

95%

The percentage of votes he received in the 1981 presidential elections when he became the first cleric to serve in the office.



© Caren Firouz / Reuters

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*His Excellency, Grand Ayatollah*  
**Sayyid Ali Khamenei**

# H.E. 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. He has vocally supported most of the unrest in the Arab World, likening it to the Iranian Revolution. However, he continues to support the Syrian government crackdown on its own people. ❁

### Champion of Iranian Solidarity

Although Khamenei was initially criticized for endorsing the June 2009 re-election of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, he has been acclaimed for his response to the post-election turmoil. He ordered the closing of the Kahrizak detention centre in response to reports of prisoner abuse and death. Most recently, he has called for solidarity within Iran, in light of the 31st anniversary of the Islamic Republic on February 11, 2010. He is a strong advocate of Iran's nuclear program.

### Supreme Leader, Velayat-e Faqih

Khamenei'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.

### Leader of Shi'a Revolution

Khamenei gains much of his influence in Iran from his role as a leader of the Islamic Revolution in Iran. The Islamic Republic of Iran was forged out of the 1979 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, Khamenei 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.

### Sunni-Shia Reconciliation

On September 2, 2010 Khamenei issued a historic fatwa banning the insult of any symbol that Sunnis hold to be dear, including but not limited to the companions and wives of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him). This fatwa was received with great appreciation by the Chancellor of Al-Azhar University, Shaykh Ahmad Al Tayyeb.



Light shines through a dome in Isfahan, Iran

## The Arab Spring ↓

- He has referred to the Arab Spring as the 'Islamic Awakening' and warned the protestors not to let their movements be hijacked by outside forces. He has been particularly supportive of the Bahraini protestors, but has sided with the government in the Syrian protests. This double standard has lost him credibility in the Sunni Arab World, yet he retains influence with the Arab Shi'a in Iraq. Moreover, he has forcefully suppressed protests in his own country.

Country: Qatar

Born: 1 Jan 1952 (Age 59)

Source of Influence: Political, Administrative, Lineage, Philanthropy

Influence: Political leader of over 1.5 million residents of oil-rich Qatar

School of Thought: Moderate Salafi

2010 Rank: 21

2011 Rank: 6

“We are trying to create a Qatari standard: you want us to deal with you, this is our standard; you win, we win, and we go for the long term”

*Emir Hamad Al Thani*

\$137<sup>MIL</sup>

The initial grant made by Emir Al Thani to establish Al-Jazeera, funding it by an emiri decree, with several year-by-year loans to keep it going.

\$75<sup>BIL</sup>

The record amount of investments the Emir has pledged to spend for the 2022 World Cup for infrastructure, facilities, tourism, communications and transportation.



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❧ 6 ❧

*His Highness Emir Sheikh*  
**Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani**



# H.H. Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani

## Emir of Qatar

Acceding to power in 1995, His Highness Emir Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani is the 9th Emir (also amir, leader) of the State of Qatar. The monarchy of Qatar is increasingly powerful as an economic force, a mediator of peace, and a thriving emirate on the northeastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula. Sheikh Hamad's leadership is marked by successful reform. As Commander in Chief of the Qatari Armed Forces, he has made significant efforts to modernize the military. Sheikh Hamad has also developed strong international relations, exerting more influence on Middle East affairs over the past few years. 🌐

### Global Stage

Qatar has become a player on the global stage. Politically, It has been at the forefront of the response to the Libyan Conflict and has even sent its planes alongside those of NATO's to enforce the no-fly zone. In the sports world, it has gained worldwide recognition by winning the bid to host the 2022 soccer World Cup.

### Economic Catalyst

According to Global Finance, Qatar is the richest country in the world with a GDP per capita of \$90,149. It is the top exporter of liquefied natural gas, and the site of the third largest natural gas reserves in the world. During Sheikh Hamad's rein, the country has developed one of the fastest growing economies in the Middle East. Recently, Sheikh Hamad signed a \$500 million investment deal with Turkey for agriculture, food, and stockbreeding development. He has also invested billions toward infrastructure, real estate and educational initiatives for Qatar.

### Humanitarian

Sheikh Hamad has been recognized in Forbes Magazine's list of the wealthiest royals in the world with a net worth of \$2 billion. What makes him markedly influential, however, is his strategic charitable giving. In February, 2010 Qatar successfully sponsored a peace deal between the rebel Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudanese government—pledging \$1 billion to reconstruction efforts in Darfur which involve establishing a development bank in Sudan.

### Patron of the Arts

Sheikh Hamad is noted for his love of the arts. In 2008, he inaugurated the Museum of Islamic Art in Doha, boasting exclusive collections of Islamic artifacts from across the globe collected over a period of 20 years. Acclaimed architect I.M. Pei was commissioned to design the award-winning landmark structure on an island off of Doha Bay.

The booming skyline of Doha, Qatar. Qatar has a 11.3% urban growth rate, the highest rate in the Muslim World.



## The Arab Spring ↑

- Has driven much of the Arab Spring through the coverage given by Al-Jazeera, the financial support given to protestors and political support to Libya. He is arguably the biggest enabler of the Arab Spring.

**Country:** Egypt

**Born:** 1946 (Age 65)

**Source of Influence:** Administrative

**Influence:** Highest scholarly authority for a majority of Sunni Muslims, runs the foremost Sunni Islamic university with close to 400,000 students

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

**2009 Rank:** 25

**2010 Rank:** 7

**2011 Rank:** 7

“The unity between Muslims and Coptic Christians of Egypt is something of absolute importance.”

*Sheikh Al Tayyeb*

1,036

Number of continuous years Al-Azhar has been teaching, making it the second oldest university in the world.

7 MIL

The number of pages being digitized for online retrieval from Al-Azhar's massive collection of manuscripts.



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*His Eminence Professor Dr*  
**Sh Ahmad Muhammad Al Tayyeb**

[www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/07](http://www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/07)

# H.E. Professor Dr Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al Tayyeb

## Grand Sheikh of the Al Azhar University, Grand Imam of the Al Azhar

Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad Al Tayyeb was appointed as Grand Sheikh of Al Azhar in March 2010, after the passing of his predecessor, Dr Muhammad Sayyid Tantawi. Al Tayyeb was formerly the president of the Al Azhar for seven years and prior to that, served for two years as the most powerful cleric in Egypt as its Grand Mufti. His scholarly influence as a leading intellectual of Sunni Islam spans the globe. 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 at universities in Saudi Arabia, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates. 🌸

### Advocate of Traditional Islam

Al Tayyeb has emphasised his mission to promote traditional Islam since becoming Grand Sheikh. He has stressed the importance of teaching students about Islamic heritage – considering Al Azhar graduates as ambassadors of Islam to the world.

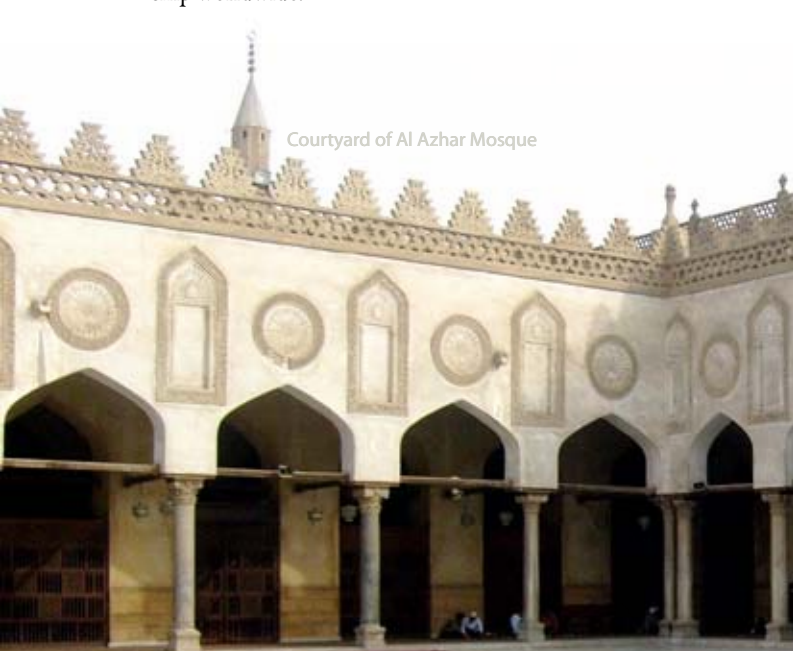
### Spiritual Leader of the Al Azhar University

Sheikh Al Tayyeb leads the second-oldest university in the world, where teaching has continued without interruption since 975 CE. Al Azhar represents the center 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 prominent Islamic educational institutions, and the foremost center of Sunni Muslim scholarship worldwide.

### Administers the Al Azhar Education Network

Al Azhar is the second oldest, and currently the largest university in the world, having risen from a group of three schools in the 1950s to its current state of over 500,000 students studying there at any one time with an additional 1.8 million students in its feeder schools. It also has over 100 university affiliates and 45,000 of the 110,000 mosques in Egypt are Azhar Waqfs. This immense size and grounded respect make the head of Al Azhar an extraordinarily powerful and academically influential person. In spite of his huge workload as president and now as Grand Sheikh, Al Tayyeb publishes regularly in numerous academic journals, dealing particularly with the reception of Islamic culture and philosophy in the Western World. Al Tayyeb 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.

Courtyard of Al Azhar Mosque



## The Arab Spring ↑

- Al Tayyeb issued an 11-point document in August which spoke about a modern and democratic nation-state based on a constitution ensuring full separation of the different branches of government and guaranteeing equality for all citizens.
- He said, 'We live at a time when hopes are high in guaranteeing freedom, democracy and the freedom of opinion. We reject any plots against the stance of Al-Azhar which supports freedom movements inside or outside Egypt. The religion of Islam acknowledges and defends the rights of people and supports nations in their legitimate right of justice, freedom and honourable living.'

**Country:** Egypt

**Born:** 7 Aug 1943 (Age 68)

**Source of Influence:** Administrative, Political, International Islamic Networks

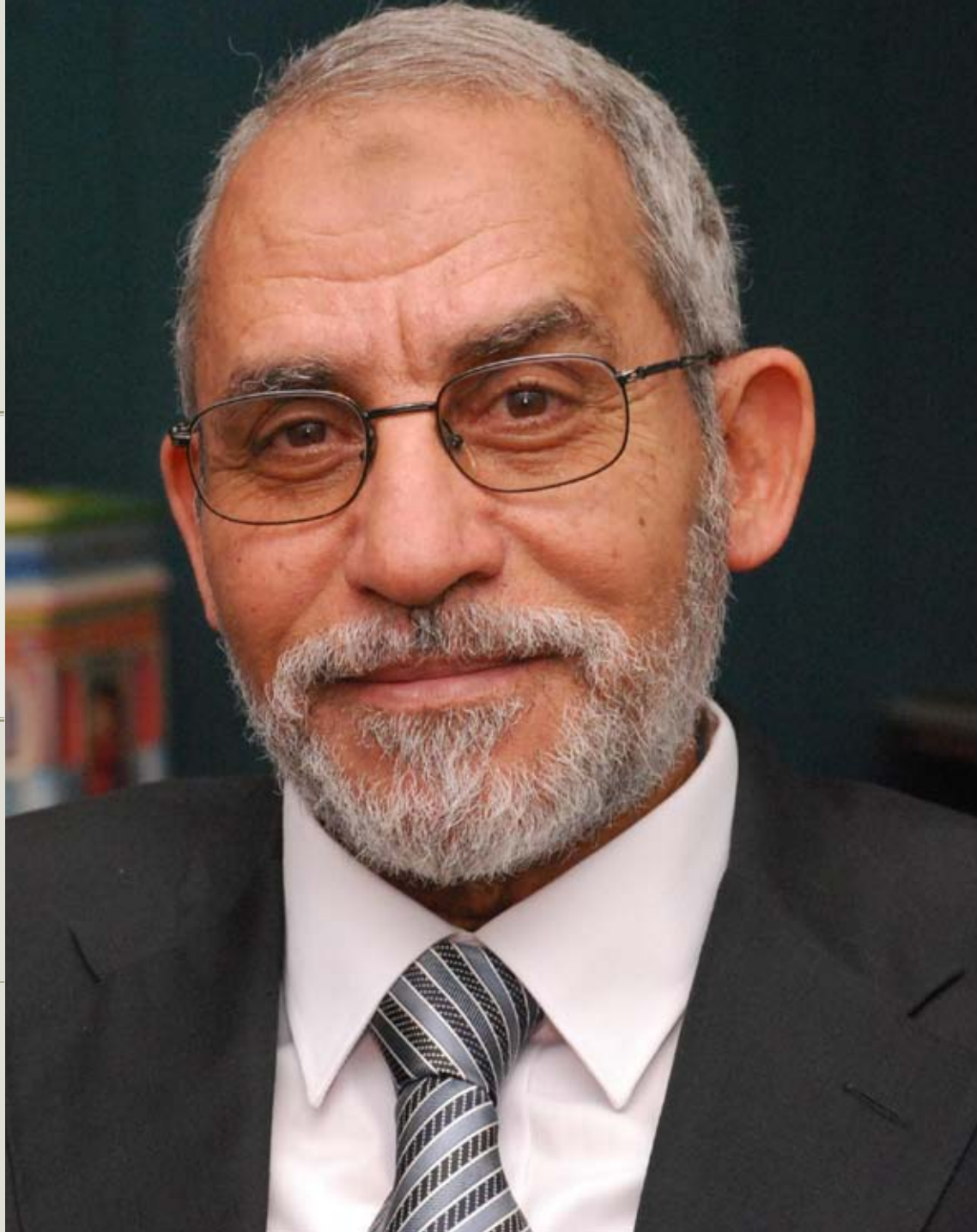
**Influence:** Leader of a transnational movement in Egypt and across the Middle East, Africa, the UK, and US

**School of Thought:** Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood

**2009 Rank:** Unlisted

**2010 Rank:** 10

**2011 Rank:** 8



“Hope is the emblem of the true believer ... We are guided by hope, love and brotherhood. Those are the measures applied by the Muslim brotherhood to encounter difficulties”

*Dr Mohammed Badie*

12

The number of years he has spent in Egypt's prisons: 9 years starting in 1965 and a 3-year sentence starting in 1999.

6

Number of positions he has held in the Muslim brotherhood at various times before attaining the highest position of the Supreme Guide.

8

*Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood*  
**Dr Mohammed Badie**

# Dr Mohammed Badie

## Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood

Dr Mohammed Badie succeeded Mohammad Mahdi Akef as the 8th Supreme Guide of the Muslim Brotherhood in January 2010. Badie is a professor of veterinary pathology at Beni-Suef University in southern Egypt, but has been elected to his position due to his work with various administrative offices, Education Association, and subsequently, the International Guidance Bureau of the Muslim Brotherhood, which is the largest Islamic political party in Egypt. 🌸

### Leader of an Expansive Muslim Network

Dr Badie heads the 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 can be found in Bahrain, Syria, Palestine, Israel, Jordan, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Algeria, Sudan, Somalia, Tunisia, and Libya, as well as the United States. In light of its expanse, Dr Badie is a strong advocate of internal unity within the Brotherhood as well as globally, between all Muslims.

### New Focus

Dr Badie represents a conservative shift in the leadership of the Muslim Brotherhood. Due to his background in education and religious conservatism, analysts predict that he will emphasize the Brotherhood's social work. Though he has been imprisoned in the past on multiple occasions due to political activities, Dr Badie stressed in his inaugural address the need for gradual reform based on dialogue and non-violence.

### Post Mubarak-Era

With elections due in November 2011, the Brotherhood created the Freedom and Justice Party and aligned itself with the liberal Wafd Party. This increases its chances of winning a parliamentary majority. The Brotherhood has historically advocated political activism and charity work with a distinctive take on Islamic Law, stating that apostasy should not be punishable, rather permitted as a freedom to all Muslims. What makes the organization'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.

## *Muslim Brotherhood's Supreme Guides*

1. 1928–1949: Hassan al Banna\* (21 years)
2. 1949–1972: Hassan al-Hudaybi (23 years)
3. 1972–1986: Umar al-Tilmisani (14 years)
4. 1986–1996: Muhammad Hamid Abu al-Nasr (10 years)
5. 1996–2002: Mustafa Mashhur (6 years)
6. 2002–2004: Ma'mun al-Hudaybi (2 years)
7. 2004–2010: Mohammed Mahdi Akef (6 years)
8. 2010–pres.: Mohammed Badie (1 year)

\* founder

## The Arab Spring ↑

- The Muslim Brotherhood is one of the biggest winners of Egypt's revolt. The greater challenge for them is to show people that under them, the rights of minorities will be protected.

Country: Oman

Born: 18 Nov 1940 (Age 70)

Source of Influence: Lineage, Political, Development

Influence: Leader of 2.9 million citizens and residents of Oman

School of Thought: Traditional Ibadi

2009 Rank: 6

2010 Rank: 6

2011 Rank: 9

“One of Oman’s firm principles is co-operation with all states and nations on the basis of mutual respect, mutual interest and non-interference in the affairs of others.”

*Sultan Qaboos*

1650

The year in which the Sultanate was established thus making it the oldest independent state in the Gulf.

5.1%

Oman has the lowest government debt among Gulf Arab oil exporters at a mere 5.1 percent of its annual economic output in 2010.

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*His Majesty*

Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Aal Sa'id

# H.M. Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Aal Sa'id

## Sultan of Oman

Sultan Qaboos bin Sa'id Aal Sa'id, the 14th descendant of the Al Bu Sa'idi dynasty, is a socially and politically active monarch, who has ruled for over 40 years as Sultan. Sultan Qaboos has revolutionized and modernized Oman, transforming it from a poor, isolationist nation into a land closely-linked with the African continent and devoted to economic development, regional stability, and religious tolerance. ✨

### Leader of Omani Sultanate

Sultan Qaboos Aal 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, producing over 757,000 barrels of crude oil per day in 2008, according to the US Energy Information Administration.

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

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. The Sultan is a discreet but strong supporter of moderate Islam and has created a unique Islamic culture in Oman that has carefully combined the best of traditional Islam with the benefits of the modern world. Sultan Qaboos has promoted culturally-specific Islamic dress, art, architecture and education, and is a keen advocate of environmentalism. This quiet, measured rise has made Oman a hidden pearl of the Islamic world.

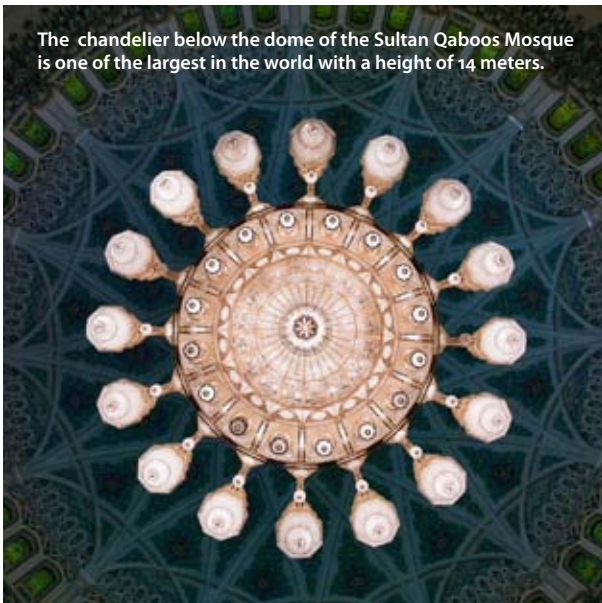
### Personal Leadership

The Sultan has raised the Omani standard of living by building up Oman's school system, health care, infrastructure, and economy. He 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. Moreover, despite Oman's relative lack of oil and gas compared to other Gulf States, the Sultan has invested his country's wealth so wisely that all citizens are guaranteed free education up to the doctoral level (should they qualify); free health care; free land; soft loans for building homes; jobs and social security for the disabled, orphans and widows. Furthermore, unlike neighboring countries, Oman has resolved all its border demarcation issues with all its neighbors, has no foreign debt and has a Sovereign Wealth Reserve Fund of over 30 billion Riyals (about \$100 billion). Oman is thus arguably the best administrated country in the Islamic world, if not in the whole world.

### International Leader

Sultan Qaboos has been recognized by organizations such as the United Nations and the National Council of US-Arab Relations for his leadership in the Persian 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 an effort to strengthen ties between Oman and Iran, as well as the strategic partnership between Oman and India—showing the Sultan's foresight in carving foreign policy independent of that of his Arab neighbors.

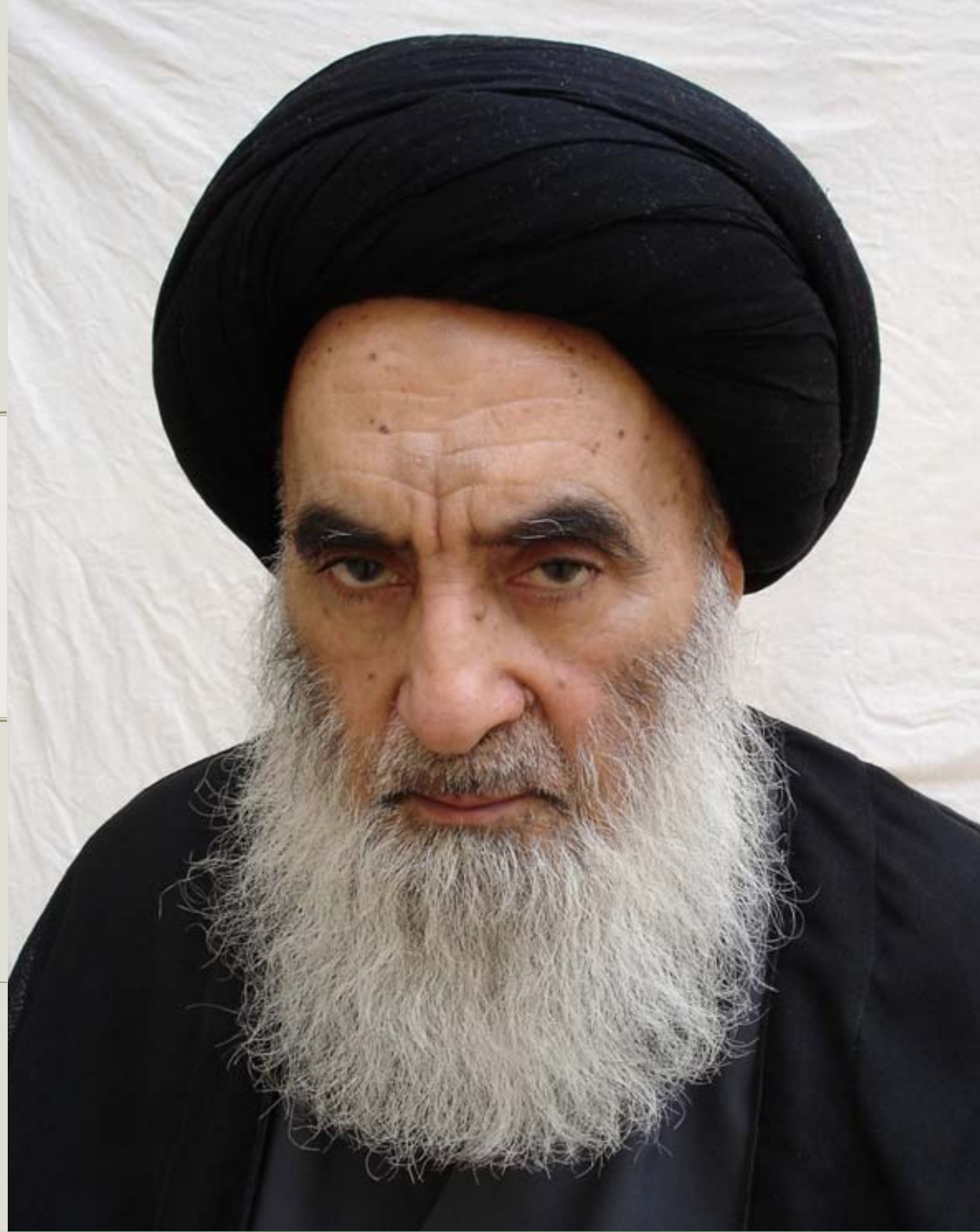
The chandelier below the dome of the Sultan Qaboos Mosque is one of the largest in the world with a height of 14 meters.



## The Arab Spring ↑

- The Sultan responded quickly to the protests. He ordered political reforms, pledged to create 50,000 government jobs and provide a monthly benefit of \$390 to the unemployed. The Sultan also instituted an elected legislative. Moreover, massive popular demonstrations showed that the Sultan still commands at least 99% popular support in Oman.

**Country:** Iraq  
**Born:** 4 Aug 1930 (Age 71)  
**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  
**2009 Rank:** 7  
**2010 Rank:** 8  
**2011 Rank:** 10



“Do not refer to the Sunnis as our other brothers, but refer to them as ‘Us.’”

*Ayatollah Sistani*

50,000

The number of students that Sistani supports in Iran.

38

The number of books that he has published, six of which have been translated into English.

10

*His Eminence Grand Ayatollah*  
**Sayyid Ali Hussein Sistani**



# H.E. Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Hussein Sistani

## Marja of the Hawza, Najaf, Iraq

Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Ali Husseini Sistani is the prime marja, or spiritual reference for Ithna'Ashari'a (Twelver) Shi'a Muslims. He is the leading sheikh of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq and the preeminent 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 have 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 currently 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.

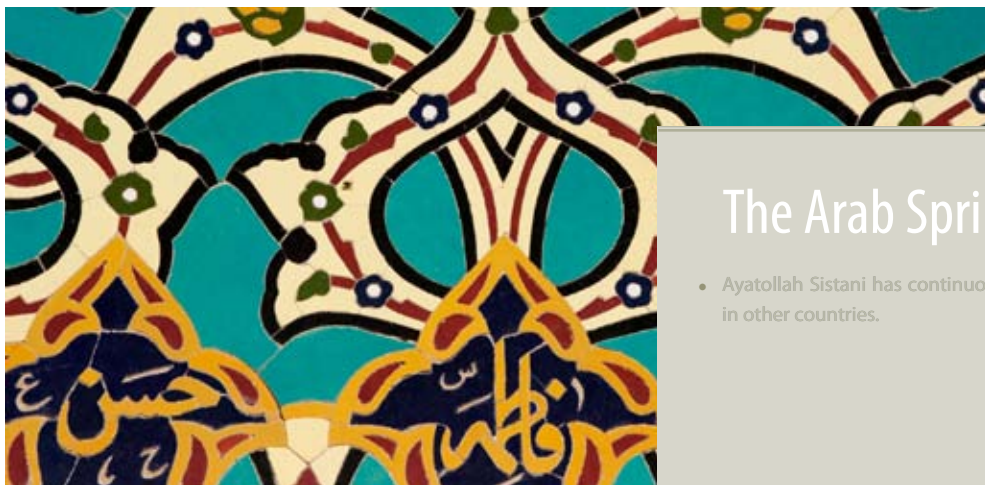
### Financial Influence

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 organization 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. This became clear 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 Sheikh Muqtada 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. Sistani was vocal about encouraging Iraqis to participate in the 2010 parliamentary elections. He strongly condemned the Baghdad church attack in October 2010 and also advised Iraqi security forces to take more responsibility for the protection of Iraqi citizens.

Tile-work containing the names of the family of the Prophet (peace and blessings be upon him) at the Imam Ali Mosque in Najaf, Iraq.



## The Arab Spring ↑

- Ayatollah Sistani has continuously supported the Arab Spring in other countries.

**Country:** Indonesia

**Born:** 9 Sept 1949 (Age 62)

**Source of Influence:** Political, Development

**Influence:** Leader of 233.5 million citizens and residents of Indonesia

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

**2009 Rank:** Top 500

**2010 Rank:** 10

**2011 Rank:** 11

“I have to improve the climate — legal certainties, political stability, law and order, sound tax policies, customs policies, good labor management. I will improve the guarantees to encourage investors.”

*President Yudhoyono*

17,508

The number of Islands that make up Indonesia, the largest archipelago in the world, which are split between 33 provinces.

735

The number of languages spoken in Indonesia—the second-largest multilingual population in the world—38 of which have over 100,000 native speakers.



© Achmad Ibrahim / AP



*His Excellency President*  
**Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono**

# H.E. President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono

## President of Indonesia

President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono is the political leader of the most populous Muslim country in the world. Commonly referred to as SBY, he has had marked influence over the country as the first directly elected president of Indonesia and over the world as a champion of anti-terrorism efforts and a beacon of democracy in the Muslim World. He has been praised both at home and abroad for instituting processes to tackle the widespread corruption in Indonesian public life and in reinforcing the mandate of the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK). 🌿

### Beacon of Democracy

President Yudhoyono came to power after a successful career with the Indonesian National Army as a four-star general—when he was dubbed “the thinking general” for his efforts toward military reform. This reputation, and a pristine political career with the administrations of former Presidents Abdurrahman Wahid and Megawati Sukarnoputri are the basis upon which the Democratic Party was founded in 2001.

This new political party was founded on the Pancasila or five basic principles (belief in the Oneness of God, just and civilized humanity, the unity of Indonesia, democracy, and social justice) with the goal of launching Yudhoyono’s candidacy for the 2004 elections. Since then, he has become increasingly influential as a beacon of democracy in a country historically marred by corruption and political instability. He was re-elected for a second and final five-year term in October 2009.

### Popular Reformist

Besides proposing military reform, President Yudhoyono has been recognized for his efforts to establish regional autonomy laws and resolve the separatist conflict in the Aceh and Papua provinces. He has also been credited for reviving the economy, and for his market-friendly approach to reform. He works closely with the Corruption Eradication Commission (KPK) to clean up graft and corruption in Indonesia. The resulting economic and political stability has been attributed to his unique influence and the power of his personal leadership in the country.

### Anti-Terrorism Advocate

Yudhoyono’s increasing popularity is due in part to the sincerity with which he actualizes his promises to the Indonesian people such as the promises for anti-terrorism enforcement made during his 2004 election campaign. Indonesia has worked closely with Australian intelligence and security forces to quell extremist threats. In March, 2010, he was awarded the Honorary Companion of the Order of Australia (AC) by former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd who said the award was in recognition of the Indonesian leader’s efforts in tracking down the Bali bombers behind the October, 2002 attack.

In response to the July 2009 hotel bombings in Jakarta, President Yudhoyono has been vigilant about openly condemning the perpetrators as agents of terrorism and simultaneously voiced his dedication to establishing peace and security in Indonesia through programs that target education and poverty-alleviation in key areas where militants may prey on the youth.

### Pop Singer

In January 2010, he released a third album of romantic pop songs titled ‘I’m Certain I’ll Make It’. In a message on the album cover, President Yudhoyono said that he liked to use his free time in between his “struggle to serve the country” to “express [his] feelings in the form of arts”.



Terrace rice fields in Bali, Indonesia. Indonesia is the 3rd largest producer of rice after China and India.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of President Yudhoyono.

**Country:** Egypt  
**Born:** 3 Mar 1953 (Age 58)  
**Source of Influence:** Scholarly, Political  
**Influence:** Legal authority for 80 million Egyptian Muslims  
**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni  
**2009 Rank:** 9  
**2010 Rank:** 10  
**2011 Rank:** 12

“There is a shared value that has brought us together: the honest commitment to deepening the dialogue between us, and advancing the understanding and cooperation between ... Christianity and Islam.”

*Sh. Dr Ali Goma'a*

30,000

The number of books in his personal library which is sought out by students and researchers from around the world in need of rare texts.

5,000

The number of fatwas that his office issues a week. The official ones that he himself crafts are on the more important and complex issues.



© Mohammed Al-Sehety / AP

12

*His Eminence*

Sheikh Dr Ali Goma'a

# H.E. Sheikh Dr Ali Goma'a

## Grand Mufti of the Arab Republic 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 Ahmed Al Tayyeb 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. It issued close to 465,000 fatwas in the year 2010. 🕌

### Egypt's Weight in Islamic Scholarship

Goma'a's scholarly influence is derived both from his vast personal knowledge and from his position at the center 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—the second oldest university in the world, founded in 975 CE—Goma'a also served as a member of the Fatwa Council. He is currently a member of the International Islamic Fiqh Academy, the highest institute of Islamic law in the Organization of the Islamic Conference—an intergovernmental organization 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 against extremism. He has published regular articles in mainstream US papers like the New York Times, and the Washington Post.

### Popularized and Simplified Fatwas

Goma'a has immense legal influence through his advocacy of Islamic religious edicts (fatwas). Since he was appointed Grand Mufti of Egypt in 2003, Goma'a has modernized the process of issuing fatwas in the country. 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. Goma'a has recently been outspoken on environmental sustainability—speaking in November, 2009 about plans to make Medina the first “green” Islamic city.

### 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 him and the routine ones dealt with via phone and the Internet by a team of subordinate muftis. Goma'a believes that respect for traditionalism is growing in the Muslim World, partly because of the immense demand for fatwas issued by his office.

## The Arab Spring ↑

- One of the few figures who held to traditional Islamic Law despite the vogue of the Arab Spring and the oppression of people.
- Goma'a has said: 'Going against legitimacy is unlawful in Islamic Law (Haram). This is an invitation for chaos. We support stability. What we have now is blind chaos leading to a civil war. I call on all parents to ask their children to stay home.'

Country: Qatar

Born: 9 Sept 1926 (Age 85)

Source of Influence: Scholarly

Influence: Leading scholar for global Muslim Brotherhood movement, host of popular show with over 40 million viewers worldwide

School of Thought: Muslim Brotherhood/Salafi

2009 Rank: 9

2010 Rank: 14

2011 Rank: 13

“Relying on Allah, the Almighty, resembles a good tree that has only excellent fruit, portrayed both in the soul and life of the individual as well as the group.”

*Yusuf Al Qaradawi*

40<sup>MIL</sup>

The number of viewers who watch his Al Jazeera broadcast 'Islamic Law and Life'.

25,132

The estimated amount of people who visit IslamOnline.net daily.



13

*His Eminence*

Sheikh Dr Yusuf Al Qaradawi

# Sheikh Dr Yusuf Al Qaradawi

## Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars

Yusuf Al Qaradawi is a preeminent Egyptian scholar. Articulate and widely read, he is one of the most commented on scholars of Islam. Al Qaradawi is a founder of the website IslamOnline.net, one of the intellectual leaders of the Muslim Brotherhood movement, and the most influential leader associated with the movement since Mahdi Akef stepped down from his position as Supreme Leader in January 2010. 🌸

### Post Mubarak Era

In February 2011, Qaradawi returned to Egypt after a 30 year exile and addressed a crowd of over a million people at Tahrir Square during Friday prayers. He addressed all segments of Egyptian society (including the Copts and the military) and called for unity and a return to civilian rule.

### 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—in 1976 and 2004—preferring to be free of institutional restrictions. Qaradawi grew up and matured with the Muslim Brotherhood but has distanced himself from the movement in recent years. As early as 1997 he went out of his way to explain his independence from any organization, stating categorically that he was not a member of the Brotherhood. 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, his writings make him an important intellectual figure in the Muslim Brotherhood movement.

### Popular Influence

Qaradawi is 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, in certain situations, is a legitimate form of self-defense has landed him in trouble, especially in Western Europe, but is reflective of an underlying sentiment among many

in the Middle East that oppression deserves such a response—however Qaradawi goes against the grain of most leading Islamic thinkers by supporting suicide bombing as a tactic of war.

### Scholar for Modern Times

Qaradawi's ability to combine traditional knowledge of Islamic Law with a contemporary understanding of the issues that Muslims face today, has led 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 40-50 million people worldwide. Despite his popularity, Qaradawi is often criticized by fellow scholars regarding his methodology and his occasionally unusual opinions. He does, however, continue to be respected as a knowledgeable scholar and has been praised for his condemnation of the September 11th attacks.

Qaradawi was heavily criticized for calling for the killing of Gaddafi.



## The Arab Spring ↓

- Qaradawi has been a vocal supporter of all the Arab protests with the exception of the protests in Bahrain. He even issued a fatwa calling for Libyan soldiers to kill Colonel Gaddafi. This fatwa raised eyebrows and was thought repulsive by some.
- Qaradawi declared his support for the rebels led by the National Libyan Council in the 2011 Libyan uprising, urging Arab nations to recognize them and 'to confront the tyranny of the regime in Tripoli'. He suggested weapons be sent to the rebels and said: 'Our Islamic nation should stand against injustice and corruption and I urge the Egyptian government to extend a helping hand to the Libyan people and not to Gaddafi!'
- Qaradawi was reluctant to give support to the 2011 Bahrain protests, claiming that: 'The protests in Bahrain are sectarian in nature.'

**Country:** Saudi Arabia

**Born:** 1941 (Age 70)

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly, Administrative

**Influence:** Grand Mufti to 26.2 million Saudi residents and the global network of Salafi Muslims

**School of Thought:** Salafi

**2009 Rank:** 11

**2010 Rank:** 11

**2011 Rank:** 14

“The ethics of a true believer are portrayed in his brother, for when he sees good deeds he encourages him ... And if he perceives any sort of violation and abuse of Sharia, he seeks to set him on the right path and amend (him).”

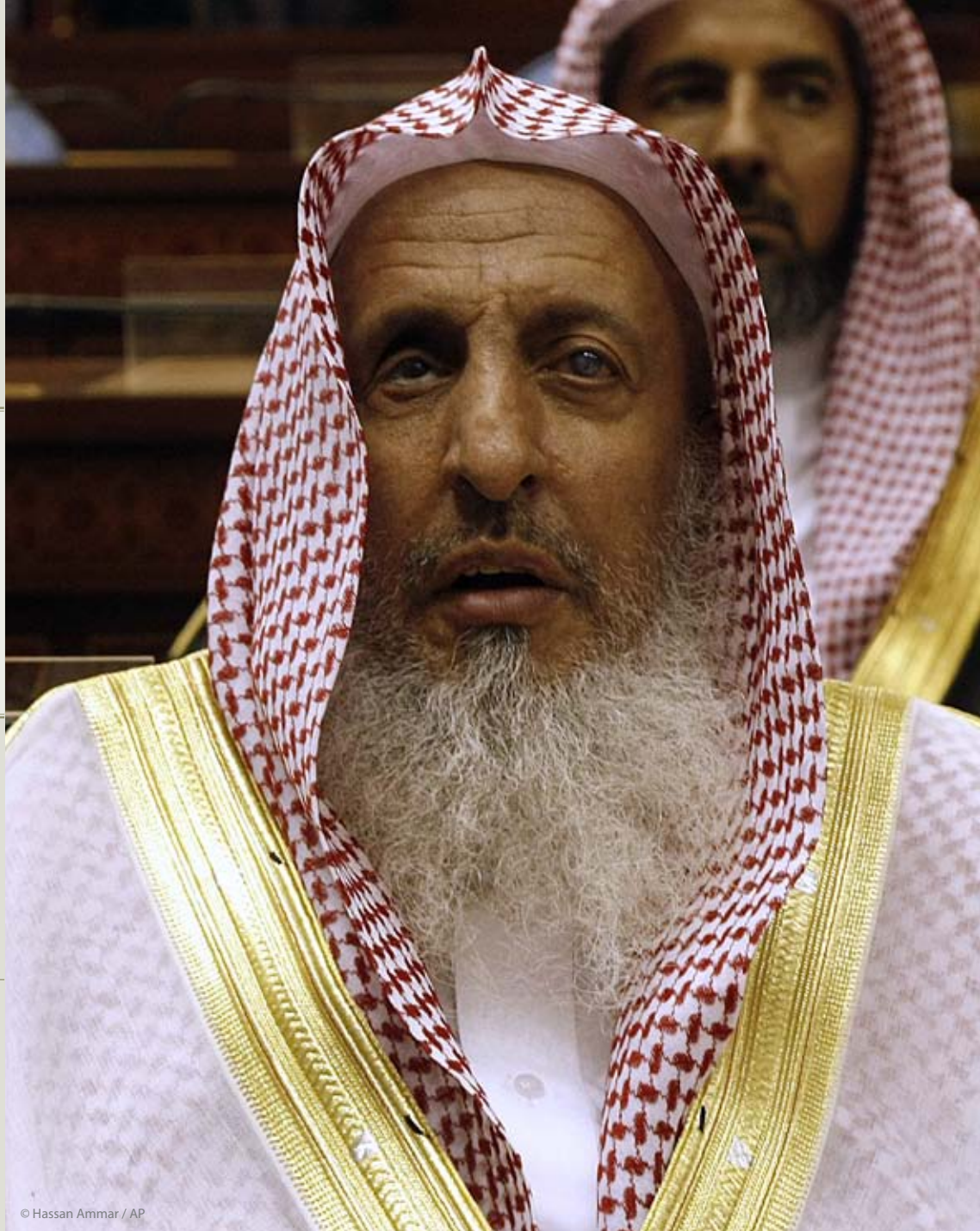
*Sh. Abdul Aziz Aal Al Sheikh*

12

The number of years he has been serving as the Grand Mufti of Saudi Arabia.

20

The age at which he lost his eyesight, 51 years ago.



© Hassan Ammar / AP

14

*His Eminence*

Sheikh Abdul Aziz Aal Al Sheikh



# H.E. Sheikh Abdul Aziz ibn Abdullah Aal Al Sheikh

## Grand Mufti of the 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. He is an Islamic scholar based in Mecca—the seat of Islam—and has influence as a leading cleric of the expansive global movement of Salafi Muslims. 🕌

### 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 scholars of Sharia (Islamic law). He has been behind fatwas that call for more rights for women and children.

Aal Al Sheikh is also chairman of the Permanent Committee for Islamic Research and Fatwas (religious edicts), a special committee designated for the researching and issuing of religious rulings and edicts on jurisprudence, the Hadith, and Aqida (creed) for the Sunni world.

As head of the Presidency for Scientific Research and Religious Edicts (Dar al Ifta), Aal 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 encouraged Muslims to celebrate birthdays and anniversaries—stressing, instead, that only the two occasions of ‘Eid and the weekly Friday observations are valid occasions to celebrate. In this, and also in his condemnation of Turkish soap operas sweeping the Arab World, Aal Al Sheikh has stressed the importance of eliminating distracting practices. He is also ardently opposed to the practice of marrying off very young girls to older men, emphasizing its incongruence with human decency and Islamic tradition.

### Salafi Lineage

The Aal Al Sheikh family in Saudi Arabia traditionally controls the religious and justice establishments. They are descended from Muhammad ibn Abd Al Wahhab (1703 – 1792), the founder of Wahhabi and Salafi thought, and for 250 years have been closely associated and intermarried with the Al Saud ruling family.

### Central Figure of Global Salafi Movement

As Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Aal Al Sheikh is the leading religious figure of the Saudi-based network of Salafi Muslims. The rulings derived by Aal Al Sheikh are based heavily on a literal reading of the Qur’an and emphasize the need to strip away cultural practices that have become a part of Muslims’ lives. The movement he leads is characterized by an authoritative stance on Islamic religious practice.

### Eminent Scholarship

Grand Mufti Aal 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.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Grand Mufti issued a fatwa that demonstrations were forbidden from a judicial point of view.
- He and 18 other members of the Council of Senior Scholars in Saudi Arabia signed a fatwa prohibiting demonstrations. The argument for this was that Saudi Arabia is based on the Qur’an and Sunnah and that it is necessary to stay hand in hand and obedient. Thus, reform can be accomplished by advice not by demonstrations or methods that give rise to discord or divide the nation.

**Country:** Turkey

**Born:** 27 Apr1941 (Age 70)

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly

**Influence:** Figure of spiritual and social leadership for millions of Turkish Muslims and others around the world

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

**2009 Rank:** 13

**2010 Rank:** 13

**2011 Rank:** 15

“Poverty is not only the lack of money, for it can assume the form of a lack of knowledge, thought, and talent. In this respect, wealthy people who lack knowledge, thought, and talent can be considered poor.”

*Fethullah Gülen*

700,000

Circulation for the Sızıntı monthly magazine for which he has written the lead article for every issue since 1979.

82

The number of books he has authored, 65 originally in Turkish and another 17 in English covering topics such as sociology, politics, religion, art, science and sports.



© Selahattin Sevi / AP

15

*Hodjaefendi*

Fethullah Gülen

# Hodjaefendi Fethullah Gülen

## Turkish Muslim Preacher

Fethullah Gülen is a preacher, thinker and educator, who having assumed the leadership of the Nurcu religious movement—started by Said Nursî (1878-1960 CE)—has gone on to become a global phenomenon in his own right. His popularity and authority in Turkey has been the driving force of the movement that is widely thought to have brought about the social and, eventually, political changes of which politician Recep Tayyip Erdogan has been the ultimate heir—that is the enfranchisement of Muslim politics in Turkey. Despite his peaceful means of preaching and community organization, Gülen is hated by the secularist establishment in Turkey and has been living in the US since 1999. 🌿

### Humanitarian Reformer

Gülen and his followers have devoted considerable energy in recent years on interreligious dialogue with tens of interfaith centers in Europe and the US being opened to foster better relations between faiths. Gülen is also the head of a series of socially oriented philanthropic efforts. His teaching emphasizes that there are no material shortages in the world, and that there is no justification for starvation. Gülen has established many charities to distribute wealth to the needy.

### Catalyst for Educational Change

When Gülen began preaching in Izmir—in his youth—a network of pupils began to unite around his teachings—as a ‘social movement’ inspired by Gülen’s example. This movement has culminated in the development of around 300 schools in Turkey and hundreds more worldwide. Graduates from these private schools around the world are coached in ethics and philosophy that are inspired by Gülen’s teachings, and continue to take top honors in university placement tests.

### Influence in the Media

The Gülen movement has opened hospitals and charities, a TV and radio station, as well as a bank—Asya Finans—that operates on Islamic principles. Gülen also has two major mass-circulation

daily Turkish newspapers that are affiliated with his movement: ‘Zaman’ and the English-language ‘Today’s Zaman’. The Gülen network has also initiated a Journalists and Writers Foundation and a Teachers Foundation—providing an umbrella organization for a host of dialogue groups and charitable organizations.

### Intellectual

Gülen is one of the most important thinkers and writers from Turkey, and among the most effective activists in twentieth-century Turkey. The Gülen movement is one of the best connected and therefore one of the most powerful networks competing to influence Muslims around the globe, making it likely to have an enduring impact on the modernization of Islam and its engagement with Western ideas.

Belgium’s Catholic University of Leuven established a ‘Fethullah Gülen Chair’ (for Intellectual Studies). In 2008, Gülen topped the list of “The World’s Top 20 Public Intellectuals” by the magazines Foreign Policy and Prospect.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Gülen.

Country: Pakistan

Born: 1923 (Age 88)

Source of Influence: International Islamic Networks, Scholarly, Administrative

Influence: Leader of an international organization with chapters in 120 countries and annual conferences that attract up to 3 million attendees.

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Hanafi

2009 Rank: 15

2010 Rank: 16

2011 Rank: 16

“People out there are burning in the fire of ignorance and you are wasting your time here inquiring after my health!”

*Muhammad Ilyas al-Kandhlawi, Abd Al Wahhab's teacher and the founder of Tablighi Jamaat.*



120

The number of countries that have chapters of the Tablighi Jamaat in them.

3 MIL

The estimated number of people who showed up to Tablighi Jamaat's annual gathering, the Biswa Ijtimaa, in Bangladesh.

16

*Amir Hajji*

Muhammad Abd Al Wahhab

# Amir Hajji Muhammad Abd Al Wahhab

## Amir 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—Hajji Abd Al Wahhab is a prominent Pakistani scholar with a significant following in South Asia and the United Kingdom. Although the organization does not have a central authority, Abd Al 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, Hajji Abd Al 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, Abd Al Wahhab has spoken about the need to return to the correct beliefs and practices of Islam in numerous countries and congregations.

### Champion of Conservatism


Abd Al Wahhab urges Muslims to repent for their sins and to emulate the life of the Prophet Muhammad by adhering to the Sunnah—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. Abd Al Wahhab's work is derived from close ties to the founder of the Tablighi Jamaat, Maulana Muhammad Ilyas Kandhelvi, and stems from the prominent 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, Abd Al Wahhab's influence has won the allegiance of prominent politicians, actors, and athletes. Despite his influence over key Muslim leaders from various fields of social power, Abd Al Wahhab 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, Abd Al 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 Abd Al Wahhab has made a point of distancing the Tablighi Jamaat from.



A member of the Tablighi Jamaat makes his way to the annual ijtema held in Raiwind, Pakistan where he will be joined by over 1.5 million others for a weekend of spiritual rejuvenation.

© PHOTO BY TYLER HICKS

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Hajji Abd Al Wahhab.

**Country:** Indonesia

**Born:** 3 July 1953 (Age 58)

**Source of Influence:** Administrative, Political, Education

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

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

**2009 Rank:** Unlisted

**2010 Rank:** 19

**2011 Rank:** 17

“We will keep promoting Islam as a blessing to the world, and will stay friendly and inclusive.”

*KH Said Aqil Siradj*

6,830

The number of Islamic boarding schools that NU manages throughout Indonesia.

44

The number of universities under the NU umbrella.



17  
*Dr*

KH Said Aqil Siradj

[www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/17](http://www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/17)

# Dr K.H. Said Aqil Siradj

## Chairman of Indonesia's Nahdlatul Ulama

Dr K.H. Said Aqil Siradj is the leader of Indonesia's largest independent Muslim organization and one of the world's most influential Islamic organizations, Nahdlatul Ulama (NU), or 'Awakening of Scholars'. Siradj, whose 5-year term as chairman in began in March 2010, guides millions through his work with the NU. 🕌

### Head of Expansive Network

The Nahdlatul 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 *Ahlas-sunah wal Jama'ah*, which is Arabic for 'people of the Sunnah (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 are the propagation of Nahdlatul 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, Siradj sits at the top of this increasingly influential Sunni movement.

### Model of Traditionalism

With a mainly rural membership base, the Nahdlatul Ulama distinguishes itself from other Islamic organizations in Indonesia by positioning itself as a premier organization of traditional Islam—with an emphasis on education and political engagement based on Islamic principles, although Siradj has vowed to focus NU's attention away from politics and more towards its spiritual mission.

### Social Service

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

### Human Rights Activism

Prior to his role as Nahdlatul Ulama chairman, Siradj served on Indonesia's National Commission for Human Rights. Only a few weeks into his position as chairman of the country's largest Muslim political party, and after violent clashes erupted in different churches across the country, Siradj made strong statements condemning the discrimination against Christian minority groups in Indonesia.

### Educational Reform

Siradj has an extensive academic background in the Islamic sciences, and regards education as a tool for development. He founded the Said Aqil Centre in Egypt, a study centre that focuses on developing Islamic discourse, particularly in the Arab World.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Dr Siradj.

Country: UAE  
Born: 3 Oct 1961 (Age 50)  
Source of Influence: Administrative, Development, Philanthropy  
Influence: Military and political leadership.  
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni  
2009 Rank: 22  
2010 Rank: 22  
2011 Rank: 18

“The UAE is not merely a financial or economic centre, nor is it only a tourist destination between East and West, but an important humanitarian centre on the international stage.”  
*Sheikh M. Aal Nahyan*

12.3<sup>BIL</sup>

His estimated worth in dollars by Forbes Magazine in 2010, a significant decrease from previous years.

15<sup>MIL</sup>

The amount of money (US dollars) that Al Nahyan has donated to the UN Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking.



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*His Highness General Sheikh*  
**Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan**



# H.H. General Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan

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

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 center for global weapons trading, with Abu Dhabi as host to one of the world's the largest defense expos in 2009.

### Political and Military Leadership

Sheikh Mohammed 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, Sheikh Mohammed 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.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

### Economic Development

With Abu Dhabi sitting on a 10th of the world's proven oil reserves, Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan maintains immense political influence in the Muslim World as a leading member of the Abu Dhabi National Oil Company—which directs development efforts for the UAE's role in the oil and gas industries. In spite of the debt crisis affecting Gulf states, Abu Dhabi has emerged mostly unscathed. Sheikh Mohammed is chairman of the Abu Dhabi Council for Economic Development (ADCED), which has been developing initiatives to boost entrepreneurship among youth in the UAE.

### Humanitarian

Sheikh Mohammed is noted for his philanthropic and humanitarian efforts in charitable giving. He has donated billions of dollars to various causes. December 2010 marked the launch of a three-year project to establish a global center for health care research in Abu Dhabi through the World Health Care Congress (WHCC), under the patronage of Sheikh Mohammed.

### Sustainable Development

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

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Joined NATO in enforcing a no-fly zone over Libya.
- Moved quickly to respond to any protests in UAE; (these in fact only involved 5 bloggers).

Country: Saudi Arabia  
Born: May 1955 (Age 56)  
Source of Influence: Scholarly, Media  
Influence: 53 published books, supervises IslamToday.net, and numerous television appearances that reach millions across the globe  
School of Thought: Moderate Salafi  
2009 Rank: 19  
2010 Rank: 25  
2011 Rank: 19

“When we stumble and forget ourselves, this should make us all the more vigilant to maintain our dignity and composure in the future: to be patient, to pardon and to overlook.”

*Sheikh Salman Al Ouda*

559,708

Amount of people who have liked his Facebook page with an additional 413,024 followers on Twitter at the time of publication.

53

The number of his publications.



19

*Sheikh*

Salman Al Ouda

# 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 propagated via IslamToday.net and his persistent efforts at ministering to the needs of the global Muslim community. 🌱

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### 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 (the Internet, audiovisual media, and print) to educate the large body of Salafi Muslims in the Islamic sciences. Sheikh Al Ouda's website brings together a diverse range of Islamic scholars and educators to provide guidance in Islamic thought.

### Influence Through Virtual Islamic Resources

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

In response to a February 2010 ruling from the Al Azhar Fatwa Committee condemning the use of Facebook, Sheikh Al Ouda defended the social networking website, stating that he uses it to communicate with Muslims across the globe and to provide Islamic guidance online. Sheikh Al Ouda has a following of over half a million on Facebook and nearly that many views of his official videos on YouTube.

### 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.net—a Saudi-funded website dedicated to providing Islamic educational resources in English, Arabic, French and Chinese. He also 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 (except in valid cases of self-defense) in the daily lives of Muslims. As a prominent member of the International Union for Muslim Scholars, he led the delegation in talks with Arab heads of state regarding the need for them to unite in opposition to Israel's siege of Gaza in early 2009.

## The Arab Spring ↑

- He praised the Arab Spring in Egypt and condemned Gaddafi in Libya. Commenting on the situation in Libya in a telephone call with Al-Jazeera Satellite Channel, Al Ouda said, 'I think that there is no more legitimacy for Gaddafi's regime in Libya.'

Country: Syria  
Born: 1929 (Age 82)  
Source of Influence: Scholarly  
Influence: Leading scholar for 20.9 million Syrian Muslims  
School of Thought: Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood  
2009 Rank: 23  
2010 Rank: 17  
2011 Rank: 20

“Love becomes a remedy when one is aware of the lordship of his lord through the knowledge of one’s absolute subjection to His Majesty.”

*Sheikh M.S. Al Bouti*

60

Sheikh Al Bouti has 60 books and publications to his name.

29,156

Number of followers to his Facebook page., despite the fact that he is not an active user of social media.



❧ 20 ❧

*Sheikh Dr*

Muhammad Sa'id Al Bouti

# Sheikh Muhammad Sa'id Ramadan Al Bouti

## Leading Islamic Scholar in Syria

Sheikh Al Bouti is the leading Islamic scholar in Syria. He is a retired Dean and current professor at the College of Islamic Law at Damascus University. Al Bouti preaches very often and is highly respected by many of the leading scholars in the Muslim World. 🌿

### Traditionalist Scholar

Al 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. Al 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

Al 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 in which extremist behavior is condoned as Islamic. Al 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 individuals without knowledge the ability to decide what is and is not Islamic.

### A Critic of Salafism

Al Bouti has considerable sway over the theological and legal 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— Al 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 Islamic fiqh (jurisprudence).

### Prolific Writer

Sheikh Al Bouti has made an impact on the Muslim World, in particular through his scholarly outreach. He writes for news publications and journals, and has developed a reputation for his ability to address and respond to queries regarding Islamic jurisprudence, and personal issues from visitors to his comprehensive website, [www.bouti.net](http://www.bouti.net).

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Al Bouti denounced the protests and called on the protesters not to be driven by anonymous calls to incite sedition and chaos in Syria.

Country: Egypt

Born: 5 Sept 1967 (Age 44)

Source of Influence: Media, Youth

Influence: Popular multimedia preacher with highly visited website and social network following.

School of Thought: Traditional Sunni

2009 Rank: 14

2010 Rank: 15

2011 Rank: 21

“The reasonable among us must be heard and our voices must come out clearer than the voices of the extremists.”

*Amr Khaled*

3.5<sup>MIL</sup>

Number of followers who have liked his Facebook page.

17.7<sup>MIL</sup>

The number of times his official videos have been watched through YouTube, not counting the millions of other views of his videos that were posted by others.



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*Dr*

Amr Khaled

# Dr Amr Khaled

## Preacher and Social Activist

Amr Khaled has been a televangelist to the Islamic world since 1998. Khaled was described as 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 in 2007. 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 into nearly twenty languages and it rivals Oprah Winfrey’s in terms of traffic. His videos have racked up 26 million hits on YouTube, and he boasts over three million followers on Facebook.

### Voice for Muslim Youths

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. Youths 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. Khaled is credited with the launch of the first “Muslim reality TV show” Mujaddidun on Dubai Television, where 16 young participants from all over the Arab world compete over who can make the most morally-conscious contributions to their societies.

### 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 Khaled 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 Worlds.

## The Arab Spring ↓

- Amr Khaled marched with the protestors in Tahrir Square and supported the revolutions that took place in the Arab World.

Country: France  
Born: 13 Dec 1936 (Age 75)  
Source of Influence: Lineage, Administrative  
Influence: Leader of 5 million Nizari Ismailis  
School of Thought: Modernist Shi'a, Ismaili, Nizari  
2009 Rank: 20  
2010 Rank: 20  
2011 Rank: 22

“In the Islamic tradition, they viewed the discovery of knowledge as a way to understand, so as to serve better God’s creation, to apply knowledge and reason to build society and shape human aspirations”

*The Agha Khan IV*

655,000

Young plants were planted in Al-Azhar Park, turning a 500-year old garbage dump into a much needed park in Cairo.

700,000

The number of paid staff at the Aga Khan Development Network, one of the largest private development networks in the world.



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*His Royal Highness*

Shah Karim Al Hussayni



# H.R.H. Shah Karim Al Hussayni

## The Aga Khan IV, 49th Imam of Ismaili Muslims

Shah Karim Al Hussayni, also known simply as the Aga Khan (Imamate: 1957-present), is the leader of the Shi'a sect of Muslims known as the Nizari Ismailis. For 5 million Nizari Ismaili Muslims the Aga Khan 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 Nizari lineage differs from the larger sect of *Ithna'Asbaria* (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. The Aga Khan's influence stems from his obligation to lead the community and to find solutions to the ever-changing issues facing his followers. At the age of 21 the Aga Khan 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 fulfill the Imam's responsibilities in the contemporary world, the Aga Khan set up the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN). The AKDN is a collection of over 200 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. These initiatives aim to show the greatness of Islamic civilization through projects such as the renovation of the Old City of Aleppo and the Al Azhar Park in Cairo. The Aga Khan's foundation maintains a strong and enduring presence in developing countries—building health care capacity, promoting economic development in rural areas and helping improve educational opportunities. The AKDN is particularly influential in Central Asia, where it works in areas that are often neglected by other organizations.

The Al-Azhar Park, listed among the 60 World's Great Places by the Project of Public Spaces.



## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of the Aga Khan.

Country: Lebanon  
Born: 31 Aug 1960 (Age 51)  
Source of Influence: Political, Development  
Influence: Main political leader of 1-2 million Lebanese Shi'a and those who support his resistance to Israel  
School of Thought: Traditional Twelver Shi'a, Revolutionary Shi'ism  
2009 Rank: 17  
2010 Rank: 18  
2011 Rank: 23

"I tell you that the strength of the resistance in Lebanon today is at its paramount of morality, cohesion, and courage. Its adherents and resources are all better than ever."

*Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah*

32

Age at which he took control of Hezbollah, becoming the leader of the popular political party in Lebanon.

80%

The percentage of Lebanese Christians polled during the 2006 war who supported Hezbollah. 80% of Druze and 89% of Sunnis also supported the Shia Hezbollah.



© Ramzi Haidar / AFP

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*Secretary General*

**Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah**

# Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah

## Secretary General of Hezbollah

Seyyed Hasan Nasrallah is serving his sixth term as 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. Hezbollah's ideology is based on seeking social justice through Islamic ideals. Political and military successes have made Nasrallah a vastly influential figure in Lebanon, and in the Middle East more broadly. Nasrallah and Hezbollah are also controversial; the US and Canada list Hezbollah as a terrorist organization. 🌿

### 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'a 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 Hezbollah's aim to achieve social justice in Palestine is central to its activities. The military successes Nasrallah had in the late nineties are seen as the main factor for Israel's withdrawal from southern Lebanon in 2000. Moreover, the staunch defense put up by Hezbollah forces against Israel in July 2006 earned Nasrallah many more supporters. In February 2010 he openly criticized Arab states' lack of involvement with opposing Israel, while at the same time praising Syria and Iran.

## The Arab Spring ↓

- Nasrallah has expressed support for the Arab uprisings, particularly in Tunisia, Egypt, Bahrain, Libya, and Yemen; yet he supported the Syrian regime; betraying a sectarian bias.

Country: Syria  
Born: 1933 (Age 78)  
Source of Influence: Scholarly  
Influence: More than 75 thousand students in Damascus alone  
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni  
2009 Rank: 31  
2010 Rank: 24  
2011 Rank: 24



“To be asked to join the Qubaisiate is very prestigious”  
*Maan Abdul Salam, (a women’s rights campaigner)*

75,000

Estimated number of students studying in Qubeysi educational institutes.

9,680

The estimated number of unique hadith found in the six major hadith collections, not counting thousands of repetitions, that many of the Qubeysi students memorize.

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*Her Eminence*

Sheikha Munira Qubeysi

[www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/24](http://www.TheMuslim500.com/2011/24)

# H.E. Sheikha Munira Qubeysi

## Leader of the Qubeysi Movement

Munira Qubeysi is the head of the largest women-only Islamic movement in the world. It offers Islamic education exclusively to girls and women. Qubeysi commands around 80 schools in Damascus alone, teaching more than 75 thousand students. She is one of the most significant Islamic scholars in the world; her movement focuses on learning the Qur'an and six major hadith collections by heart. Qubeysi is arguably the most influential Muslim woman in the world, albeit in great discretion. 🌸

### Female Muslim Order

At a time when clandestine meetings of Islamic organizations are proscribed in Syria, Sheikha Qubeysi's network, the Qubeysiat, has legally been permitted to host classes and meetings in mosques since 2006—although they had been operating as a secret society for long before that time. Members of the Qubeysiat identify themselves, and ranks within the group, based on specific colors and articles of clothing—headscarves knotted at the neck, and overcoats denoting membership status. Women within the network are provided a unique role within Arab society as scholars and teachers exclusively catering to the needs of Muslim women; they provide an open forum to address religious questions and discuss religious issues.

### Milestones in Islamic Education

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

Photographs of Sheikha Qubeysi are not available due to her adherence to the traditional prohibition of the use of images of people and her covert leadership.

Qubeysi's students are also at the forefront of a significant achievement in Islamic history in regards to education—no less than 70 Qubeysiat have memorized nine canonical books of Hadith with extensive chains of narration. By training this sizeable group of female scholars, Sheikha Qubeysi has made Islamic knowledge widely accessible, and is credited for the resurgence of Islamic education in the country.

### Leading an Islamic Revival in Syria

Qubeysi's influence in Syria is due to the fact that she has been able to develop a very large network of madrassas (religious schools) without attracting the criticism of the government, which has traditionally been dubious of large networks of Muslim organizations. The organization follows traditional Sunni practice, and follows the Shafi'i school of thought. Although member groups are found in Jordan, Kuwait and Lebanon, Damascus is the center of the revivalist movement.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Sheikha Qubeysi.

Country: Nigeria  
Born: 24 Aug 1956 (Age 55)  
Source of Influence: Lineage, Development, Administrative  
Influence: Central figure for 75.7 million Nigerian Muslims  
School of Thought: Traditional Sunni, Maliki; linked to the Qadiriyyah Sufi order by lineage  
2009 Rank: 16  
2010 Rank: 23  
2011 Rank: 25

“Talking is very important and is critical to finding an amicable solution to the violence.”

*Sultan M. Abubakar III*

211

The number of years since the Sokoto Empire was first established in 1809 by Sheikh Usman Dan Fodio.

52

The number of years that his father, Alhaji Sir Abubakar III, led the Muslims of Nigeria, the longest ruling of the 20 Sokoto sultans.



© Anonymous / AP

❧ 25 ❧

*Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as Sultan*  
**Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III**

# Amirul Mu'minin Sheikh as Sultan Muhammadu Sa'adu Abubakar III

## Sultan of Sokoto

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 75.7 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.

### An Illustrious 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 is also 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 all 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 Abubakar 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.

## Sokoto Sultans

1. 1804–1815: Imam Usman dan Fodio\* (11 years)
2. 1817–1837: Muhammed Bello (20 years)
3. 1837–1842: Abu Bakr Atiku (5 years)
4. 1842–1859: Mai Katuru (17 years)
5. 1859–1866: Ahmad bin Atiku I dan Usman (7 years)
6. 1866–1867: Ali bin Bello II (1 year)
7. 1867–1873: Ahmad Rufa'i (6 years)
8. 1873–1877: Abu Bakr bin Bello (4 years)
9. 1877–1881: Mu'adh bin Bello (4 years)
10. 1881–1891: Umar Ben Ali (10 years)
11. 1891–1902: Danyen Kasko (11 years)
12. 1902–1903: Muhammadu Attahiru I (½ year)
13. 1903–1915: Muhammadu Attahiru II (12 years)
14. 1915–1924: Muhammadu dan Ahmadu (9 years)
15. 1924–1931: Muhammadu dan Muhammadu (7 years)
16. 1931–1938: Hasan dan Mu'azu Ahmadu (7 years)
17. 1938–1988: Alhaji Sir Abubakar III (50 years)
18. 1988–1996: Ibrahim Dasuki dan Khaliru (8 years)
19. 1996–2006: Alhaji Muhammadu Maccido (10 years)
20. 2006–pres.: Muhammed Sa'adu Abubakar III (2 years)

\* founder

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of the Sultan.



## Sheikh Ahmad Tijani Ali Cisse

Leader of the Tijaniyya Sufi  
Order

**Country:** Senegal

**Born:** 1955 (Age 56)

**Source of Influence:** Lineage, Scholarly

**Influence:** Spiritual leader of around 100 million Tijani Muslims

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni, Sufi, Tijani

**Rank:**

2009: 32

2010: 36

2011: 26

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 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.

### Descendent of the Tijaniyya Founder

The Tijaniyya is 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 Cisse as the reviver of the Sunnah.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of the Sheikh.



## H.E. President Abdullah Gül

President of the Republic of  
Turkey

**Country:** Turkey

**Born:** 29 Oct 1950 (age 61) in Kayseri, Turkey

**Source of Influence:** Political

**Influence:** Leads government of 75.7 million Turkish citizens

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

**Rank:**

2009: 28

2010: 33

2011: 27

Abdullah Gül is the 11th president of the Republic of Turkey and the first modern Turkish head-of-state from an Islamist background. Facing intense secularist opposition to his political career, Gül has maintained a focus on democratic reform. As prime minister and subsequently as foreign minister, Gül pursued a pro-active foreign policy and largely succeeded in striking a balance between Turkey's traditional Western-anchored foreign policy priorities and its new interests in the Middle East and the Muslim World.

### Influence through Pragmatic Leadership

Gül's political influence in Turkey and abroad derives from his ability to reconcile the demands of a predominantly religious electorate with those of the secular establishment of the Turkish Republic. Together with Erdogan, Gül has worked to expand the sphere of democratic rights in Turkey, which in turn have benefited the predominantly traditional and religious segments of Turkish society. Gül continues to play a significant role in the current efforts to find a lasting solution to Turkey's Kurdish issue. Gül was also the first Turkish politician to visit Armenia.

## The Arab Spring ↑

- Has said: 'Everyone should know that we are with the Syrian people.'
- Was the first head of state to meet with the Egyptian Supreme Council in Egypt.





## Mufti Muhammad Akhtar Raza Khan Qadiri Al Azhari

Barelwi Leader and Spiritual Guide

**Rank:**  
2010: 26  
2011: 28

**Country:** India  
**Born:** 23 Nov 1943 (age 68) in Bareilly, India  
**Source of Influence:** Administrative, Scholarly  
**Influence:** 2 million barkatiya Barelwis  
**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni, Hanafi, Sufi

Mufti Muhammad Akhtar Raza Khan is the leader of the Indian Barelwis and considered by his followers as the Grand Mufti of India. He is the great-grandson of Ahmed Raza Khan (d. 1921) who founded the Barelwi movement in South Asia.

### Scholarly Lineage

Mufti Akhtar Raza was ordained at the age of 20 by his predecessor Mufti Mustafa Raza Khan. He was subsequently granted permission to lead the Qaadriya, Barakaatiyah, and Nooriyah Sufi orders in India. He was also appointed to the position of Muslim Chief Justice of India in 2006.

### Dynamic Mufti

Mufti Akhtar Raza is esteemed for his extensive collection of English-language rulings, the Azharul Fatawa. He became involved in issuing Islamic rulings from the age of 17 and is noted for having issued over 5,000 rulings since attaining leadership as mufti.

### Spiritual Tradition

The Barelwis are an apolitical Sufi community based in a volatile region where religion has been used as a platform for violence—despite this, it thrives as a socially engaged mystical movement. A missionary movement, the Barelwis have spread their message within South Asia and also among diaspora communities. This group is distinct from Deobandi Muslims—who practice a more conservative brand of Islam.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Mufti Raza Khan.



## Waddaulah, His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin

Sultan of Brunei

**Rank:**  
2009: 24  
2010: 28  
2011: 29

**Country:** Brunei Darussalam  
**Born:** 15 July 1946 (age 65) in Brunei Town, Brunei  
**Source of Influence:** Political, Financial  
**Influence:** Leader of over 400,000 citizens of Brunei  
**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

His Majesty Haji Hassanal Bolkiah Mu'izzaddin Waddaulah is one of the richest men in the world. He is the 29th Sultan of one of the oldest dynasties in existence today. Brunei is a country on the north coast of the island of Borneo in Southeast Asia, with a Muslim population of approximately 211,000.

### House of Bolkiah

His Majesty Sultan Bolkiah 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 is the longest reigning Sunni Muslim Royal House in Brunei.

### Administrative Influence

Sultan Bolkiah has been lauded for attempts at slowly democratizing the country's governance, while at the same time 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). The Sultan is also an important donor to the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of the Sultan.



**H.E. Mohammad bin Mohammad Al Mansour**  
 Imam of the Zaidi Sect of Shi'a Muslims

**Country:** Yemen

**Born:** 1917 (age 94) in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**Source of Influence:** Lineage, Scholarly

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

**School of Thought:** Traditional Zaidi (Fiver) Shia

**Rank:**  
 2009: 26  
 2010: 29  
 2011: 30

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 ten million followers, Zaidis constitute almost half the entire population of Yemen, and around 3 per cent in Saudi Arabia.

**Lineage in the Imamate**

Zaidi Muslims are a Shi'a sect named after the followers of Zaid bin Ali, grandson of al Hussein (grandson of the Prophet Muhammad). The sect was formed by the followers of Zaid bin Ali who led an unsuccessful revolt against the Umayyad Caliph Hisham ibn Abd Al Malik in 740 CE.

**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 enjoys much respect in Yemeni society. Al Mansour was influential in stemming the escalation of conflict in 2005.

**The Arab Spring** ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Imam Al Mansour.



**H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah**

Deputy-Head of the International Union of Muslim Scholars

**Country:** Mauritania

**Born:** 1935 (age 76) in Maruitania

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly

**Influence:** Significant influence as a leading contemporary scholar of Islamic Jurisprudence

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni, Maliki

**Rank:**  
 2009: 30  
 2010: 30  
 2011: 31

Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah's influence is derived from his scholarship and preaching. Uniquely, all of the different sects and schools of Muslims respect him as a scholar. A testament to this is the notable fact that whilst he is not a Salafi, the Saudi government promulgates his fatwas as authoritative. He is an instructor at King Abdul Aziz University in Jeddah and is the deputy head of the Union of Muslim Scholars, under Yusuf al Qaradawi.

**Diplomat**

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

**Author**

Having written numerous texts, Sheikh Bin Bayyah's scholarly explorations have gone global through speaking engagements that draw crowds of tens of thousands. 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 aqaliyyaat*.

**The Arab Spring** ↑

- He, and a group of Muslim scholars from all over the world, condemned the actions of the Syrian regime and signed a letter that declared this; particularly the attack on Muslim scholars, mosques and the haphazard killing of the innocent.



**H.E. Justice Sheikh  
Muhammad Taqi Usmani**  
Leading Scholar of Islamic  
Jurisprudence

**Country:** Pakistan  
**Born:** 1943 (age 68) in Deoband, India  
**Source of Influence:** Scholarly, Line-age  
**Influence:** One of the most senior figures in Islamic finance, and a leading scholar of the Deobandi movement  
**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni/Deobandi

**Rank:**  
 2009: 27  
 2010: 31  
 2011: 32

Justice Sheikh Muhammad Taqi Usmani is a leading scholar of Islamic jurisprudence. He is considered to be the intellectual leader of the Deobandi movement. He specialises in financial matters and presented a paper in January 2010's World Economic Forum Annual Meeting at Davos, entitled: "Post-Crisis Reforms: Some Points to Ponder".

#### 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 International Islamic Fiqh Academy of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, one of the highest legal bodies in the Muslim World.

#### 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. Usmani was born in Deoband, India, the son of Mufti Muhammad Shafi (the former Grand Mufti of Pakistan) who founded the Darul 'Uloom Deoband, a leading center of Islamic education in Pakistan.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Sheikh Usmani.



**Dr Aaidh  
Al Qarni**  
Saudi Scholar

**Country:** Saudi Arabia  
**Born:** 1960 (Age 51)  
**Source of Influence:** Scholarly  
**Influence:** Writer of the popular self-help book Don't Be Sad (La Tahzan), which has sold over 2 million copies.  
**School of Thought:** Moderate Salafi

**Rank:**  
 2009: Top 500  
 2010: 35  
 2011: 33

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. Dr Al Qarni has over 800 Islamic audio lectures and is a prolific writer and preacher for tolerance.

#### Self-help Icon

Among the millions of books Dr Al Qarni has sold are publications that center around self-help themes—a new trend in the world of Islamic books. The best selling Don't Be Sad has become a foundational text in the application of Islamic principles as a remedy for the obstacles of daily life. Other titles include, You Can Be the Happiest Woman in the World and The Key to Success.

#### Popular Preacher

Dr Al Qarni has garnered a substantial following through a preaching career which spans various modes of broadcast media from audio lectures to a comprehensive website, alislamnet.com. He lectures at mosques, colleges, and Islamic institutions and hosts a weekly television show, Our History, on Iqraa satellite channel. Dr Al Qarni is a respected academic and Hafiz of the Qur'an.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Declared his belief that the Syrians were the most courageous of the Arab nations, called upon the Tunisian people to hold on to justice.
- He condemned the leaders of the countries that witnessed uprisings as people who 'do not lead in the name of Allah and His Shariah', and that was the reason for their downfall.



## H.M. Queen Rania Al Abdullah

Queen of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

**Country:** Jordan

**Born:** 31 Aug 1970 (age 41) in Kuwait City, Kuwait

**Source of Influence:** Philanthropy, Women's Issues, Media, Political

**Influence:** Queen of Jordan with over 2 million followers and subscribers on various social media sites

**School of Thought:** Modernist Sunni

**Rank:**

2009: Top 500

2010: 32

2011: 34

Her Majesty Queen Rania Al Abdullah is the wife of H.M. King Abdullah II, but is also in her own right an educational activist with global appeal. Through sheer hard work, she has developed the biggest virtual following of any Muslim in the world, and she defends and humanizes Islam and Arab causes in-and-to-the West as effectively as any Muslim scholar in the world.

### Educational Ambassador

HM Queen Rania is the initiator and key leader behind the launch of educational initiatives such as the Jordanian Madrasati, 'My School', a five-year project for the development of Jordan's public school system. She is also the co-founder and global chair of the '1 Goal: Education For All' campaign which was based around the 2010 FIFA World Cup and calls for the complete primary schooling of all boys and girls in the world by 2015.

### Intercultural Dialogue

Queen Rania has an amazingly popular YouTube channel, with over 6 million views of her videos, and website (www.QueenRania.jo). In April 2010, Queen Rania launched her children's book 'The Sandwich Swap' (which made the New York Times best-seller list) through the United Nations Bookshop in an initiative to promote cross-cultural understanding among youth.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Despite some male chauvinistic criticism inside Jordan during the Arab Spring, Queen Rania remains by far the most popular person – male or female – on social media in the Arab World.



## Sheikh Mohammed Ali Al Sabouni

Scholar of Tafsir

**Country:** Syria

**Born:** 1 Jan 1930 (age 81)

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly

**Influence:** Significant scholarly influence as the leading contemporary authority on Qur'anic exegesis (*tafsir*)

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni, Hanafi

**Rank:**

2009: 29

2010: 34

2011: 35

An internationally respected Islamic scholar of tafsir, or Qur'anic exegesis, Sheikh al Sabouni is widely acclaimed for his short commentaries of the Qur'an.

### Popular Commentaries

Al Sabouni is influential because of his easy-to-read, simplified commentaries of the Holy Qur'an. They are now thought of as some of the most popular short commentaries in history after those of Jalalayn, Baydawi, Nasafi and Ibn Juzayy. One of al Sabouni's most influential commentaries is the Tafsir Ayat Al Ahkam, an exploration of the Qur'anic verses that pertain to legal rulings.

### Traditional Authority

The Institute of Scientific Research and Revival of Islamic Heritage at the Umm Al Qura University in Mecca, Saudi Arabia commissioned al Sabouni to investigate the ancient tafsir manuscript of Abu Jaafar al Nahas (d. 949 CE/338AH). Al Sabouni's landmark achievement of verifying the only surviving manuscript of the text has come to fruition as a six volume work published by the university.

## The Arab Spring ↑

- Called upon all protesters to keep a firm stand and fight against tyranny.
- Issued a fatwa saying that it is forbidden for soldiers in the Syrian army to fight their brethren.



**H.E. President Mahmoud Abbas**  
President of the Palestinian National Authority

**Country:** Palestine

**Born:** 26 March 1935 (age 76) in Galilee, Israel.

**Source of Influence:** Political

**Influence:** One of the founders of Fatah, and leading peace negotiator in the Palestine-Israel conflict.

**School of Thought:** Sunni

**Rank:**

2009: Top 500

2010: Top 500

2011: 36

Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, is the President of the Palestinian National Authority, a co-founder of Fatah, and chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization. His standing improved dramatically after he submitted Palestine's bid for statehood at the UNGA and gained membership to UNESCO.

**Politics**

President Abbas is one of the surviving founding members of Fatah – the main political grouping within the PLO. He has always been committed to pursuing an independent Palestinian State through negotiations and was one of the principal architects of the Oslo Peace Process.

**Problems & Statehood Bid**

Abbas's term as President has not been an easy one. He has faced many internal and external problems but has managed to come through largely unscathed. After seeing that years of peace negotiations were leading to nothing but the relentless growth of illegal settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, President Abbas chose to look for an alternative strategy: submitting a statehood bid at the UN (see Issues of the Day on page 149).

## The Arab Spring ↑

- Has said: 'We Palestinians have always been at the heart of the movement of Arab peoples aspiring to freedom ... We have always been committed to democratic traditions, respected pluralism and the freedom of opinion and expression, and this has long been a source of pride for us and a source of inspiration for our brothers from other Arab nations.'



**Habib Umar bin Hafiz**  
Director of Dar Al Mustafa, Tarim, Yemen

**Country:** Yemen

**Born:** 1962 (Age 49)

**Source of Influence:** Lineage, Scholarly

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

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni, Shafi'i

**Rank:**

2009: 36

2010: 37

2011: 37

Habib Umar bin Hafiz is well known for his Prophetic lineage and status as one of the most influential Sufi scholars alive today. His influence through scholarship and preaching is vast in Indonesia and East Africa. He is also incredibly influential through his leadership of the Ba'Alawi movement. He has increased his touring of western countries in the past few years in response to his growing following.

**Cultivation of Scholarship**

Habib Umar founded and runs Dar al Mustafa, a center for traditional Islamic scholarship that currently 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 Muslims and Christians.

**Da'wa & Humanitarian Efforts**

Habib Umar is noted for his da'wa efforts, with significant visits to the USA and Europe over the past year. In July 2008, he 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.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Has said: 'Scholars must guide all on the path of the Messenger of Allah (PBUH) and Muslim blood should not be shed ... It is forbidden, whether you are a ruler or a citizen, to hurt or harm others, and to allow the killing, looting, and dishonouring of Muslims in any way.'



**H.H. Sheikha Moza  
Bint Nasser Al Missned**  
Chairperson of the Qatar  
Foundation

**Country:** Qatar

**Born:** 8 Aug 1959 (age 52) in Al Khor, Qatar

**Source of Influence:** Philanthropy, Women's Issues, Media, Political

**Influence:** Queen of Qatar and head of Qatar Foundation and various other organizations.

**School of Thought:** Sunni, Moderate Salafi

**Rank:**

2009: Top 500

2010: Top 500

2011: 38

Her Highness Sheikha Moza is married to the Emir of Qatar. She plays a very active role in promoting a wide range of issues at home, in the Gulf region and internationally.

**Education Initiatives & Leadership**

Sheikha Moza is the Chairperson of the non-profit Qatar Foundation for Education, Science and Community Development. The Foundation has brought some of the leading US university programs to Qatar. It also promotes international research, and provides scholarships around the world. Sheikha Moza serves as the President of the Supreme Council for Family Affairs and is Vice Chairperson of both the Supreme Education Council, and the Supreme Health Council.

**International Work & Recognition**

In 2003, UNESCO appointed Sheikha Moza as the Special Envoy for Basic and Higher Education, and in 2005 she was selected to be a member of the high level group of the UN Alliance of Civilizations. Along with her UNESCO work, she actively promotes and protects the right to education in conflict-hit areas of the world; particularly Gaza, Iraq and Afghanistan. Sheikha Moza was listed as one of the "100 most powerful women in the world" by Forbes Magazine in 2007. In addition, she was named as one of the "25 Most Influential Business Leaders in the Middle East" by The Times of London.

## The Arab Spring ↑

- Qatar's influence in the Arab Spring also boosted its first lady, Sheikha Mozah.



**Khaled Mashaal**  
Leader of Hamas

**Country:** Palestine

**Born:** 1956 (age 55)

**Source of Influence:** Political

**Influence:** Leader of approximately 1,000 members in military wing of Hamas

**School of Thought:** Sunni, Muslim Brotherhood

**Rank:**

2009: 37

2010: 38

2011: 39

Khaled Mashaal became the leader of Hamas after the assassination of Sheikh Ahmad Yaseen in 2004. Mashaal is the head of Hamas's Syrian political bureau and is the international representative for the Palestinian resistance to the Israeli occupation.

**Fighter for Social Justice**

Since becoming head of Hamas, Mashaal has seen the organization through multiple attempts at a roadmap to peace and a major Israeli siege of the Gaza Strip.

**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. Mashaal has shown a willingness to negotiate with Israel to return to the 1967 borders and grant Palestinians a right of return, while importantly implying the necessary existence of the State of Israel, despite Hamas's historic denial of that possibility. Mashaal has been one of the most direct, and candid leaders in dialogue and confrontation with Israel and this has garnered international recognition.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Hamas political leader Khaled Mashaal praised the uprisings in Egypt and Tunisia and expressed the hope that they would pave the way for a more militant stance towards Israel.



**Professor Dr M Din Syamsuddin**  
Chairman of Muhammadiyah, Indonesia

**Country:** Indonesia  
**Born:** 31 Aug 1958 (age 53)  
**Source of Influence:** Scholarly, Administrative, Development  
**Influence:** Over 35 million members in the Muhammadiyah organization, including thousands of institutes underneath it  
**School of Thought:** Modernist Sunni

**Rank:**  
 2009: 35  
 2010: 39  
 2011: 40

As chairman of the largest modernist Islamic organization in Indonesia, as well as a leader of the Indonesian Ulema Council, Din Syamsuddin influences the Muslim World on various fronts. He was re-elected as the chairman for another five years in July 2010.

#### Social Welfare

Established in 1912, the Muhammadiyah is one of the oldest and largest Muslim organizations in the world. Syamsuddin is involved with the educational, health, and social welfare efforts of the organization which includes 14,000 schools, 172 universities and institutes of higher learning, 485 clinics and hospitals, 600 orphanages, 300 microfinance institutes and numerous other projects across the Indonesia.

#### Interfaith Dialogue Leadership

Syamsuddin is also very active in interfaith and intercultural dialogue, serving as President of the Asian Conference of Religions for Peace (ACRP), Co-President of WCRP, and Chairman of the World Peace Forum.

#### Conflict Resolution

The Muhammadiyah is active in conflict resolution such as in the South of Thailand and Mindanao. It is a member of the International Contact Group (ICG) for peace talks between the government of the Philippines and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF).

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Dr Din Syamsuddin.



**Maulana Mahmood Madani**  
Leader and Executive Member of Jamiat Ulema-e-Hind, India

**Country:** India  
**Born:** 3 March 1964 (age 47)  
**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

**Rank:**  
 2009: 36  
 2010: 40  
 2011: 41

Maulana Mahmood Madani, a leading Islamic scholar and politician in India, has gained in fluence 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. He 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.

#### 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 from Deoband when he addressed the Pakistani government, and Pakistani High Commissioner Shahid Malik in particular, in an open letter regarding the commissioner's remarks in December 2008 at the UN Security Council about terrorism stemming from 'mullas in Deoband'. Maulana Madani is also a strong opponent of government interference in the madrassa system.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Maulana Madani.



**Habib Ali Zain  
Al Abideen Al Jifri**  
Director General of the Tabah  
Foundation, UAE

**Country:** UAE

**Born:** 16 April 1971 (age 40)

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly, Lineage, Philanthropy

**Influence:** Globally influential through his teaching endeavors in Yemen and across the world

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

**Rank:**

2009: 37

2010: 41

2011: 42

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 in the Muslim World. Al Jifri is Director General of the Tabah Foundation in the UAE, member of the board of Dar al Mustafa in Yemen, member of the Royal Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan, and affiliated with various other international Islamic organizations.

#### 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

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

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Habib Ali.



**Sheikh Hamza Yusuf  
Hanson**  
Teacher and Co-founder of  
Zaytuna College, USA

**Country:** USA

**Born:** 1960 (age 51)

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly

**Influence:** Leading Islamic authority in a country with 2.6 million Muslims

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

**Rank:**

2009: 38

2010: 42

2011: 43

Sheikh Hamza Yusuf Hanson is the Western World's most influential Islamic figure. He is seen as one of the foremost authorities on Islam outside of the Muslim World. He is a co-founder of Zaytuna College in Berkeley, California, the first Muslim liberal arts college in the USA.

#### American Scholar

Hanson converted to Islam in 1977 when he was only 17 and spent many years studying Arabic, Islamic jurisprudence and philosophy with some of the Muslim World's most prominent and well-respected scholars. His popularity, and accordingly his influence, stem from his being deeply steeped in the classical traditions of both the Western and the Islamic world as well as his gift of speech.

#### Educator

He is seen as the primary figurehead for spreading traditional Sunni orthodoxy in the West through his popular speeches and his teaching at short intense study programs such as Deen Intensive, The Rihla and RIS. He has recently started a blog on sandala.org where he discusses issues of the day.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- Sheikh Hamza argues that history has proven revolts and overthrown regimes do not mean an end to problems. He urges that change should start at home and not from replacing regimes as uprisings start from a self inclined towards evil. Furthermore, he expressed his admiration of constitutional monarchies since they are not affected by corruption, for the king is not in need of anything. He used the King of Morocco as an example.





H.E. Sheikh Professor Dr  
Mustafa Cerić  
Grand Mufti of Bosnia and  
Herzegovina

**Country:** Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Born:** 1952 (age 59)

**Source of Influence:** Administrative,  
Scholarly

**Influence:** Grand Mufti of 1.6 million  
Bosnian Muslims

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

**Rank:**

2009: 39

2010: 43

2011: 44

Mustafa Cerić is a guiding light for Islam in Europe and the leading Islamic authority there; he became Grand Mufti of Bosnia and Herzegovina in 1993. Cerić is outspoken on interfaith initiatives in the Muslim World and is considered one of the most influential Muslim leaders of current times.

#### Advocate of Cross-Cultural Engagement

In 2006, Cerić 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 Cerić disregarded 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.

#### Peace Activist

Cerić 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 through discussions on social injustice.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Dr Cerić.



H.E. Professor Dr  
Ekmeleddin Ihsanoglu  
Secretary General of the  
Organization of the Islamic  
Conference

**Country:** Turkey

**Born:** 26 Dec 1943 (age 68)

**Source of Influence:** Administrative,  
Political

**Influence:** Leader of an organization  
comprised of 57 Muslim-majority  
states.

**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

**Rank:**

2009: 40

2010: 44

2011: 45

Ihsanoglu is Secretary General of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC)—the largest intergovernmental Muslim organization in the world, and the second largest public organization after the United Nations.

#### Voice for the Muslim World

The OIC often has more influence over certain issues than other organizations do, and can have a key role to play in world events—being more inclusive than the Arab League and also able to tackle specific injustices that the United Nations Security Council cannot.

#### Reviving the OIC

Under Ihsanoglu's leadership the organization's remit has widened 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. In January 2010, Ihsanoglu called for the creation of a Peace & Security Council as well as an Islamic Court of Justice to adjudicate between member states of the OIC.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- He has said: 'How could the Middle East remain the same when everywhere else the world is changing? But change is going to differ from one country to another. It will take a long time and it will be painful. That is why I never called this process an 'Arab Spring' – because spring is just one season, and we will see the summer and winter. It will take a long time for the new regimes to take shape. But this [region] is definitely going to be [moving] in the direction of democracy.'



## H.H. Dr Syedna Mohamad Burhannuddin Saheb

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

**Country:** India

**Born:** 6 March 1915 (age 96)

**Source of Influence:** Administrative

**Influence:** 1 million Dawoodi Bohras in the world

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

**Rank:**

2009: 45

2010: 47

2011: 46



## Professor Dr Seyyed Hossein Nasr

Philosopher & University Professor

**Country:** USA

**Born:** 7 April 1933 (age 78)

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly

**Influence:** Written major books and given countless lectures internationally

**School of Thought:** Traditional Shi'a

**Rank:**

2009: 47

2010: 48

2011: 47

Mohammad Burhanuddin Saheb is the leader of the Dawoodi Bohra community, which stems from the Ismaili Shi'a sect of Islam. As leader of the Bohras, he has been influential in the fields of education and the development of community institutions in Mumbai, India and across the globe.

### Absolute Missionary

Saheb was appointed Da'i of the Dawoodi Bohras by his father who was the previous Da'i l-Mutlaq, or absolute missionary, and succeeded him at the age of 53. Originating from Yemen but centrally based in India, the Dawoodis are the main branch of the Bohras, a Musta'li sub-sect of Isma'ilism. Over 180,000 members from all parts of India and the world gathered in the Island city of Mumbai to attend Ashara Mubaraka, the ten-day Moharram discourses of Saheb held in December 2010. In June 2011, soon after his 100th birthday (as per the hijri calendar) the ailing Burhanuddin appointed his second son Syedi Mufaddal Saifuddin as his successor.

### Community Development

Mohammad Burhanuddin Saheb 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 Bohras in various parts of the world and particularly in Yemen.

## The Arab Spring ↓

- Syedna Burhannuddin Saheb enjoyed strong relationships with Ali Abdullah Saleh and the late Gaddafi, hence, he was against any revolt or disturbance in the region.

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 Islamic tradition and philosophy. He is the only Muslim to be included in the Library of Living Philosophers. He has written over 50 books and over 500 articles.

### Reviver of Tradition

Nasr's work has covered the most important areas of contemporary Muslim thought from classical Islamic philosophy, Islamic science, Sufism, and critique of modernity to interfaith relations, Islam–West relations, and the environmental crisis. Nasr is the first Muslim scholar ever to be invited to give the prestigious Gifford Lectures, which were later published as *Knowledge and the Sacred*.

### Islamic Environmentalism

Nasr's work has been ahead of its 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.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Dr Nasr.



Sheikh Mehmet  
Nazim Adil Al-Qubrusi  
Al-Haqqani  
Leader of Naqshbandi-  
Haqqani Sufi Order

**Rank:**  
2009: 49  
2010: 49  
2011: 48

**Country:** Cyprus  
**Born:** 25 April 1922 (age 89)  
**Source of Influence:** Lineage, Scholarly  
**Influence:** Leader of sizeable world-wide Sufi order  
**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni, Naqshbandi Sufi

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 ‘Abd al Qadir al Jilani (1077-1166 CE) and Jalal al Din Rumi (d. 1273 CE).

#### 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. Al Haqqani 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.

#### Spiritual Guide

Al Haqqani has ministered to the Sultan of Brunei, 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. In 2010 an online portal authorized by Shaykh Nazim launched his official online journal titled [Saltanat.org](http://Saltanat.org) which contains articles written by him and broadcasts his lectures via livestream.

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Sheikh Nazim.



H.E. Dr Abd al Aziz  
bin ‘Uthman Altwajjiri  
Secretary General of the  
Islamic Educational, Scientific  
and Cultural Organization

**Rank:**  
2009: 50  
2010: 50  
2011: 49

**Country:** Saudi Arabia  
**Born:** 3 April 1950 (age 61)  
**Source of Influence:** Development, Administrative  
**Influence:** Head of largest Islamic educational organization  
**School of Thought:** Traditional Sunni

His Excellency Dr Abd al Aziz bin ‘Uthman Altwajjiri has exercised his influence by promoting educational development for OIC member states.

#### Educational Influence

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

#### Voice of Diplomacy

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

## The Arab Spring ↔

- The Arab Spring events have not significantly affected the influence of Dr Altwajjiri.



## H.E. Dr Aref Ali Nayed

Scholar & Libyan Ambassador  
to the UAE

**Country:** Libya

**Born:** 1962 (age 49) in Libya

**Source of Influence:** Scholarly, Political

**Influence:** Interfaith scholar and influential figure in the new Libyan government

**School of Thought:** Sunni

**Rank:**

2009: Top 500

2011: 50

Nayed has recently been appointed Ambassador to the UAE for Libya's National Transitional Council (NTC). He also leads the Libya Stabilisation Team. Prior to the Libyan revolution he worked as an important scholar in the field of Muslim-Christian relations, and is the founder and director of Kalam Research & Media (KRM).

### Religious Scholar

Nayed is a former professor at both the Pontifical Institute for Arabic and Islamic Studies (Rome) and at ISTAC, Malaysia, and is a senior advisor to the Faculty of Divinity in Cambridge, UK. Prior to the Libyan revolution he lectured on Islamic Theology, Logic, and Spirituality at the restored Uthman Pasha Madrasa in Tripoli, Libya. He was recently appointed to the Board of Advisors of the Templeton Foundation.

## The Arab Spring ↑

- Nayed took part in demonstrations in Tripoli in the early days of the revolution
- Established the Network of Free Ulema – Libya that brought together traditional religious scholars who called for an end to the violence of the Gaddafi regime.
- After the revolution he was appointed as both Chief Operations Officer of the Libya Stabilisation Team and the Ambassador to UAE, the first ambassador to be officially appointed under the NTC.
- He bridges between the West and the Islamic World and between liberals and Islamists in Libya.

 Honorable 

# MENTIONS



## H.E. Dr Ahmet Davutoğlu

Political

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**Country:** Turkey

**Born:** 26 Feb 1959 (age 52)  
in Taşkent, Konya, Turkey

Ahmet Davutoğlu is the Foreign Minister of Turkey. He is a political science academic who became ambassador and then chief advisor to the Prime Minister before being appointed Foreign Minister on May 1, 2009. Davutoğlu is considered to be the most important figure for redefining the new framework of Turkish foreign policy under the AKP's rule.



## H.E. Dr Anwar Ibrahim

Political

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**Country:** Malaysia

**Born:** 10 August 1947 (age 64) in  
Cherok Tok Kun, Penang, Malayan  
Union

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. In 2010 he was awarded the lifetime achievement award from The Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS UK). He is well-known for his liberal Islamic stance on politics, and is influential as a leader and role model for young people. Ibrahim's coalition now controls 4 of 13 state governments. If led by Anwar, it would have a fair chance of winning the next national election in 2013. In December 2010, he was suspended from Parliament for 6 months.



## H.E. Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ishaq Fayadh

Scholarly

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**Country:** Iraq

**Born:** 1930 (age 81) in Jaghori, Ghazni,  
Afghanistan

Grand Ayatollah Fayadh, originally from Afghanistan, is one of the four marjas of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq—one of the two most important seats of learning in Twelver Shi'ism. Fayadh is known for his quietist approach to politics and is well-respected especially amongst the Shi'a population of South Asia.



## Dr Zakir Abdul Karim Naik

Preacher

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**Country:** India

**Born:** 18 October 1965 (age 45) in  
Mumbai, Maharashtra, India

Zakir Abdul-Karim Naik is a renowned public intellectual who has made it his mission to teach the world about Islam. He hosts huge public events where he speaks on the subject, highlighting misconceptions and promoting understanding about the faith. Naik 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. He is also the founder of the Islamic Research Foundation, which runs United Islamic Aid. He was listed as one of the most powerful Indians in 2010.



**H.H. Amir Sheikh  
Mohammed bin Rashid  
Al Maktoum**  
Political

**Country:** UAE  
**Born:** 12 July 1949 (age 62)  
in Dubai, Trucial States

Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum is the Ruler of Dubai as well as the Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates. After taking a heavy hit during the financial crisis, Dubai is well back on its way to recovery, and still stands out as a leader of vision and practice in the region. Al Maktoum is a well-respected politician in the Middle East. He has launched multiple charity initiatives from Dubai, such as ‘Dubai Cares’ which has donated over \$910 million to youth education initiatives in impoverished countries since its inception in 2007.

“Money is like water,  
block its flow  
and it will stagnate.”  
—*Sheikh Mohammed Al Maktoum*



**Mir-Hossein Mousavi**  
Political

**Country:** Iran  
**Born:** 2 March 1942 (age 69)  
in Khameneh, Iran

Mir-Hossein Mousavi is an Iranian political figure who held positions such as Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs in the 1980s before he ran as a primary opposition leader in the 2009 Iranian presidential elections. “Where is my Vote?” became the slogan of the ‘Green Movement’ that gained speed in the aftermath of Mousavi’s loss in the presidential campaign. Millions of protesters went out to the streets to call for a recount and ignited a violent confrontation with the Basij forces—under the Revolutionary Guard.



**Sheikh Abdul Rahman  
Al-Sudais**  
Qur’an Recitor

**Country:** Saudi Arabia  
**Born:** 10 Feb 1960 (age 51)  
in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Al Sudais is the chief of the Imams at the Grand Mosque of Mecca. He memorized the Qur’an at the age of 12, and studied Shari’a at Riyadh University, Imam Muhammad bin Saud Islamic University, and Umm al Qura University. Al Sudais is also popular for his sermons and stance on peaceful conflict-resolution.



**Dr Tariq Ramadan**  
Scholarly

**Country:** Switzerland  
**Born:** 26 August 1962 (age 49)  
in Geneva, Switzerland

Ramadan is Europe’s preeminent Muslim intellectual writing about Islam in public life. He is a professor of Islamic Studies at Oxford University and formerly a visiting professor at the Erasmus University in Rotterdam. He is the president of the European Muslim Network think tank based in Brussels and is an advisor to the European Union on religion. Ramadan has written 15 books and produced over 100 recordings. Since a six-year ban on entrance to the US, Ramadan made his first public appearance in New York in April 2010



## Uthman Taha

Arts & Culture

Country: Syria

Born: 1934 (age 77) outside of Aleppo, Syria

Uthman Taha is an internationally acclaimed Arabic calligrapher. After training with the world's top calligraphers, Taha began working on producing copies of the Qur'an, or mushafs with the King Fahd Complex for the Printing of the Holy Qur'an. Of the copies he has worked on, over 200 million have been distributed and are continually sought by students of the Qur'an and Muslims across the globe.



## Adnan Oktar (Harun Yahya)

Science & Technology

Country: Turkey

Born: 2 Feb 1956 (age 55)  
in Ankara, Turkey

Writing under the pen name Harun Yahya, Adnan Oktar has gained international prominence as a spokesperson for creationism but also garners influence from his numerous and extensively distributed publications about Islam, and Islamic children's books. Over 200 lavishly produced books, which have been internationally distributed [often free-of-charge], most famously his The Atlas of Creation in which tens of thousands of copies of the book were delivered to schools, scholars and research institutes throughout Europe and the United States. He is vocal about his stance against concepts such as Darwinism and materialism and is outspoken on the implementation of his ideas in the West.



## Dr Muhammad Tahir Al Qadri

Scholarly

Country: Pakistan

Born: 19 Feb 1951 (age 60)  
in Jhang, Pakistan

Al Qadri is a professor and the founder of Minhaj ul Qur'an International Worldwide, and the Minhaj Welfare Foundation. Al Qadri has authored some 450 published works and given more than 6,000 lectures on various subjects which are aired on international satellite channels. He also served as a jurist consult (legal advisor) on Islamic law for the Supreme Court and the Federal Shari'ah Court of Pakistan and has worked as a specialist adviser on Islamic curricula for the Federal Ministry of Education of Pakistan. In March 2010, Qadri issued a 600-page fatwa, which declared terrorists and suicide bombers to be unbelievers. The US State Department declared the fatwa to be significant and that it takes back Islam from terrorists. The think-tank "United States Institute of Peace" invited Qadri to speak about his struggle against radicalism in Islam in light of this fatwa. In August, he held the first anti-terror camp for Muslim youth at the University of Warwick.



## Dr Timothy Winter (Sheikh Abdal-Hakim Murad)

Scholarly

Country: UK

Born: 1960 (age 51) in London, England

Winter is Britain's leading Muslim scholar and one of the most well-respected Western theologians in the Muslim World. He has written on various topics including British Muslim history and theological discourse. Winter teaches theology at Cambridge University and is the director of Studies in Theology at Wolfson College in Cambridge. He established a Muslim College in Cambridge and is working on building a model eco-mosque in Cambridge. He began a Muslim Choir and published "Muslim Songs of the British Isles". He also founded and is working on "Travelling Light" which is a 40-episode lecture series. He is the director of the Sunnah project, which has published the foremost scholarly Arabic editions of the major Sunni Hadith collections.



❧ The Final ❧

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# ❧ The Lists ❧

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Within the past year the world has witnessed international political developments, environmental crises, destructions and revolutions. These are the key figures that have been exceedingly influential on these issues.

# Scholarly

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.

## Middle East North Africa

### ALGERIA

#### **Cherif, H.E. Ambassador Prof. Dr Mustafa**

Mustafa Cherif, a former ambassador of Algeria to Egypt, 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

#### **Yaquby, Nizam**

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

### 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. He will be running for the Egyptian Presidency.

### IRAN

#### **Amoli, H.E. Grand Ayatollah Abdullah Jawadi**

Grand Ayatollah Amoli is a leading theologian and interpreter of the Qur'an. He is a prolific scholar having published over 300 articles and books. He is most well-known for his commentary of the Qur'an the Tafsir al Tasnim, which has been lauded by his peers. Amoli has remained a very public figure throughout his career, having led a diplomatic mission to the USSR, and continues to speak publicly on current affairs.

#### **Damad, H.E. Ayatollah Dr Seyyed Mostafa Mohaghegh**

Damad is one of the very few high-level clerics in Iran to have been educated in international law in the West. Damad is a forceful advocate for a more progressive interpretation of shari'a. 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. In October 2010, at the Pope's behest, he addressed the Synod in the Vatican, stressing the Muslims' view towards Christians as one of friendship, trust and mutual understanding.

#### **Shirazi, H.E. Grand Ayatollah Nasir Makarim**

Grand Ayatollah Shirazi is a leading theologian teaching at the seminary in Qom, one of the two most important centers of learning for Twelver Shi'a. He is most influential for his Tafsir al Amthal, which is a very popular simplified commentary of the Qur'an. He has also spearheaded the creation of schools and magazines devoted to young people. He has been outspoken in his support for the Palestinians.

#### **Sobhani, H.E. Ayatollah Jafar**

Sobhani is a leading member of the Council of Mujtahids in the Seminary of Qom; one of the two most important centers of learning in Twelver Shi'ism. He is the director of the Imam Sa-diq Institute, Iran. His work in all areas of the Islamic sciences is widely known and receives critical attention. Sobhani is a prolific writer having published over 300 scholarly works.

#### **Soroush, Abdolkarim**

Soroush is a well-known figure in the religious intellectual movement in Iran. His writings were essential reading during the time of the Iranian Revolution in 1979, though they have since become more important outside Iran than inside it. Soroush remains a public intellectual who criticizes the Iranian government from a modernist religious perspective. He wrote a 10-point manifesto for the Green Movement.

### IRAQ

#### **Fayadh, H.E. Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Ishaq**

Read bio on page 88 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

### **Hakim, H.E. Grand Ayatollah Mohammed Said**

Grand Ayatollah Hakim is one of the four marjas of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq, and accordingly is one of Iraq's most important Shi'a clerics. His family is very prominent in Iraq, holding key positions in Shi'a social and religious organizations and also in government. Hakim leads around 5 percent of the Iraqi Shi'a population. His influence stems partly from his relationship to Grand Ayatollah Mohsen al Hakim, a former religious leader of the Twelver Shi'a in Iraq.

### **Al Najafi, H.E. Grand Ayatollah Bashir**

Grand Ayatollah Bashir al Najafi is one of the four marjas of the Hawza Seminary in Najaf, Iraq, and one of Iraq's most powerful Shi'a clerics. As a marja of the Hawza in Najaf, Iraq's premier Shi'a institution, Najafi holds a position of immense authority. Najafi, originally from Pakistan, holds less sway amongst Iraq's population than the other marjas but has significant clout in South Asia.

### **Al Sadr, H.E. Ayatollah Al Faqih Seyyed Hussein Ismail**

Ayatollah al Faqih Seyyed Hussein Ismail al Sadr is the most senior Shi'a cleric in Baghdad, Iraq. He heads the Ayatollah Seyyed Husain Ismail al Sadr Foundation Trust, which runs humanitarian, development, and peace and reconciliation projects in Iraq. His role as a social leader and humanitarian has increased significantly during the recent hostilities in Iraq. The issue of reconciliation and dialogue between Iraq's different religious and ethnic communities has featured heavily in the Ayatollah's recent efforts.

### 🕌 JORDAN 🕌

### **Khasawneh, H.E. Sheikh Abdul Karim**

Sheikh Khasawneh was appointed by royal decree to the post of Grand Mufti of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in February 2010. Sheikh Khasawneh is the former mufti of the Jordanian Armed Forces.

### 🕌 LEBANON 🕌

### **Qabbani, H.E. Dr Mohammad Rashid**

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

### 🕌 MOROCCO 🕌

### **Abdul-Rahman, Prof. 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. Abdul-Rahman 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.

### **Al Rasuani, Mulai Ali [new]**

Mulai Ali is a Muslim scholar and historian who has worked as a preacher and lecturer all over the world for most of his life and is well-known for his gentle approach to teaching. Al Rasuani holds positions in several religious institutions in Morocco, including The Association of Scholars of Morocco and the Committee in charge of supporting Islamic education for Muslim youth in Spain. He has written and translated a number of books in the fields of religion and history.

### 🕌 OMAN 🕌

### **Al Khalili, H.E. Sheikh Ahmad**

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. Al Khalili issues fatwas on behalf of Oman's establishment and represents Oman in Islamic events abroad.

### 🕌 PALESTINE 🕌

### **Al Tamimi, H.E. Justice Sheikh Dr Tayseer Rajab**

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

### 🕌 SAUDI ARABIA 🕌

### **Al Madkhali, Sheikh Rabi' Ibn Haadi 'Umayr**

Sheikh Rabi' Ibn Haadi 'Umayr al Madkhali is one of the most radical thinkers in the Salafi movement. He is an influential writer and speaker, whose influence has led to an independent faction within Salafism. Al Madkhali's adherents are known as Madkhali Salafis and make up one of the most significant and influential branches inside the Salafi movement.

### **Al Saffar, Hasan Musa**

Hasan 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. This is important as sectarian tensions throughout the Muslim World have risen with the increased Sunni-Shi'a hostilities in Iraq.

### 🕌 SYRIA 🕌

### **Hassoun, H.E. Sheikh Dr Ahmad Badr al Din**

Hassoun has been the Grand Mufti of the Republic of Syria since 2004 when he succeeded the late Sheikh Ahmed Kufaro. 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, a sentiment that holds great sway in Syria's religiously diverse society.

### **Itr, Sheikh Dr Nur al Din**

Sheikh Dr Nur al Din Itr is an Al Azhar-trained sheikh based in Syria. A leading scholar of the Qur'anic sciences and Hadith, he is credited for participating in an incredibly successful educational movement out of Damascus: The Qubaisiat, a female-only Sufi network which is the leading Islamic movement in Syria—with Sheikh Itr as the principal instructor.

### **Al Nabulsi, Dr Mohammed Ratib [new]**

The son of a well-known Syrian religious scholar who left a large collection of books and manuscripts, Dr Al Nabulsi is known for his lectures on Islam. Al Nabulsi has represented Syria all over the world in many Islamic conferences. Muslims know him through the lessons, orations, symposiums and interviews broadcast on radio and television. He has written a number of Islamic books, many of which have been translated into English.

### **Al Yaqoubi, Sheikh Muhammad**

Sheikh al Yaqoubi traces his lineage back to the Prophet Muhammad's grandson al-Hasan. A widely revered scholar, al Yaqoubi's influence has spread as far as Europe, where the Islamic Society of Stockholm elected him as the Mufti of Sweden. He has been interviewed on most major news channels concerning events in Syria, calling for the government to allow peaceful protests.

### **Al-Zuhayli, Dr Prof. Sheikh Wahba Mustafa**

Dr al-Zuhayli is a leading scholar of Islamic law and legal theory and is noted for his extensive scholarship. He is also considered an expert on Islamic international law and is chairman of Islamic jurisprudence at the College of Shari'a at Damascus University. Al-Zuhayli is a popular preacher and a proponent of traditional orthodox Sunni Islam.

## *Sub-Saharan 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 president. Dokori is also Burkina Faso's representative to ISESCO. He is one of the leading Muslim scholars in a country with around 9.6 million Muslims.

### 🕌 ETHIOPIA 🕌

#### **Idris, H.E. Hajji Omar**

Omar Idris is a mufti and leader in Ethiopian Muslim politics. 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.

### 🕌 GAMBIA 🕌

#### **Jah, H.E. Ambassador 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.

### 🕌 KENYA 🕌

#### **Mazrui, Dr Ali Al'amin**

Dr Mazrui is a prominent scholar of African and Islamic studies and an outspoken commentator on Islam. Noted for his stance on the applicability of shari'a law within a democratic system and his denunciations of violence in the name of religion, he is a widely-respected academic. A prolific writer, Dr Mazrui is an Albert Schweitzer Professor in the Humanities and the Director of the Institute of Global Cultural Studies at the State University of New York at Binghamton.

### 🕌 NIGERIA 🕌

#### **Ahmed, Dr Ibrahim Datti**

Dr Ibrahim Datti Ahmed is the President-General of the Supreme Council for Shari'a in Nigeria (SCSN). The SCSN is the focal Islamic religious institution that deals with shari'a in Nigeria, and is also a representative body of Nigeria's Muslim scholars. Recently, the SCSN has petitioned for fair treatment of Muslim military officers and has spoken out against prejudice and violence against Muslims, especially in light of the violent clashes between Christians and Muslims near the city of Jos in January 2010.

### 🕌 SOUTH AFRICA 🕌

#### **Desai, Mufti Ebrahim**

A prominent Deobandi sheikh, Mufti Desai runs askimam.org, issuing numerous fatwas online through the Camperdown-based Islamic institution Darul Iftaa, Madrassah Inaamiyyah where he is the principle mufti and a senior lecturer.

#### **Hendricks, Sheikh Seraj**

Hendricks is the mufti of Cape Town and imam and teacher at the Zawiya Mosque. He is a leading scholar on Sufism in South Africa, and a patron of Dome Publications. Hendricks is seen as one of the highest authorities on Islamic scholarship for South Africa's large and affluent Muslim population.

### 🕌 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. Mamdani is well-known for his book *Good Muslim, Bad Muslim: America, the Cold War, and the Roots of Terror*, which became significant in liberal policy circles in the US.

## 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 and Azerbaijan's Center for Freedom of Conscience and Worship. Ibrahimoglu received his religious education in Qom, Iran, but also studied human rights in Poland. This combination of Islamic and secular education is attractive for a population that was only recently part of the Soviet Union.

#### **Pashazade, Sheikh ul Islam Haji Allahshukur Hummat**

Pashazade is not only the Grand Mufti of Azerbaijan, but also the Mufti, by election, of the whole Caucasus region. Pashazade is also the world's only Sunni-Shi'a Grand Mufti, giving each group fatwas according to their relevant madhab, reflecting Azerbaijan's Sunni-Shi'a mix. He co-chaired the World Summit of Religious Leaders, held in Azerbaijan in April 2010.

### 🕌 INDIA 🕌

#### **Engineer, Asghar Ali**

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

#### **Sadiq, Maulana Kalbe**

Sadiq is a well-known scholar of Shi'a Islam. His aim is to break down the existing barriers between Hindus and Muslims in India. Currently, Sadiq is also the Vice President of the All India Muslim Personal Law Board, focused on shari'a law in India. He runs a chain of schools and colleges in Uttar Pradesh.

### 🕌 INDONESIA 🕌

#### **Baswedan, Anies**

In 2007, Baswedan was selected as rector of Paramadina University, making him the youngest university rector in Indonesia. He received the Nakasone Yasuhiro Award from The Institute for International Policy Studies (IIPS) in Japan in 2010. Baswedan was also named one of the World's 100 Public Intellectuals in 2008 by

Foreign Policy Magazine, as well as Young Global Leader 2009 by the World Economic Forum.

#### **Bisri, Kyai Haji Achmad Mustofa [new]**

Kyai Haji Achmad Mustofa Bisri is widely revered as a religious scholar, poet, novelist, painter and Muslim intellectual. He has strongly influenced the NU's (Nahdlatul Ulama) social and political development over the past thirty years. He heads the prestigious Raudlatuth Tholibin Islamic boarding school in Rembang, Central Java. Mustofa Bisri's role in combining spirituality with artistic expression is widely admired in Indonesia, where he is regarded as a cultural icon. Often called the "President of Poets," he is celebrated for his courage in defending artistic and religious freedom in the face of radical onslaughts.

#### **Maarif, Syafi**

Maarif is one of Indonesia's most famous scholars whose political comments regularly attract significant attention. In 2008 he won the prestigious Magsaysay Award for guiding Muslims to embrace tolerance and pluralism. This former president of the influential Muhammadiyah organization is actively involved in interfaith and peace movements both domestically and internationally, largely through his Maarif Institute for Culture and Humanity. He was recognized for his role in promoting interfaith dialogue and religious harmony at the Habibie Awards. Maarif is also a professor of history at the National University of Yogyakarta, and a productive author and columnist, currently writing two regular columns in 'Republika' newspaper and also in Gatra Magazine.

### 🕌 MALAYSIA 🕌

#### **Al Akiti, Dr Muhammad Afifi**

Al Akiki is a young scholar, a trained theologian and philologist. He is a lecturer of Islamic studies with the Faculty of Theology at Oxford University, a KFAS Fellow in Islamic Studies, and a fellow at Worcester College. He is internationally acclaimed for his 2005 fatwa, 'Defending the transgressed by censuring the reckless against the killing of civilians' written in response to the 7 July London bombings, which was praised by scholars of Islam and gained a massive readership on the Internet. Al-Akiki was appointed Privy Councillor to the State of Perak, Malaysia, by the Crown Prince of Perak.

#### **Al Attas, Dr Syed Muhammad Naquib**

Dr al Attas is considered by many to be a giant of scholarship in the Muslim World. An influential philosopher and thinker, he has written on the traditional Islamic sciences as well as sufism, metaphysics, and philosophy. He has served at various global academic institutions as an educator and lead administrator and is also a noted calligrapher.

#### **Kamali, Prof. Dr Mohammad Hashim**

Originally from Afghanistan, Kamali is a dean and professor at the International Institute of Islamic Thought and Civilization (ISTAC) and the International Islamic University in Malaysia.

Kamali is also the current Chairman and CEO of the International Institute of Advanced Islamic Studies in Malaysia. He is the world's leading expert on comparative studies between Islamic and modern law. He is one of the most prolific producers of quality scholarship on Islam in the world today. Kamali received the King Abdullah I bin Hussein International Award for the year 2010 in recognition of his intellectual and academic contributions towards serving Islam and Muslims. In Feb 2010, he worked on the new constitution of Somalia.

#### PAKISTAN

##### Hashmi, Dr Farhat

Hashmi is an influential lecturer and scholar. She has been instrumental in the burgeoning field of the role of women in Islam and has contributed greatly to its literature. Hashmi is the founder of Al-Huda International, an NGO actively promoting Islamic education and welfare since 1994.

##### Najafi, H.E. Grand Ayatollah Muhammad Hussain

Grand Ayatollah Hussain Najafi is the only marja in South Asia. Based in the Sargodha district of the Punjab province in Pakistan, he was the first scholar from that country to be given the status of marjiyyat and is one of only two Ayatollahs from Pakistan.

##### Al Qadri, Dr Muhammad Tahir

Read bio on page 90 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

#### SINGAPORE

##### Kassim, Ustaz Ibrahim

Ibrahim Kassim is one of Singapore's most respected Islamic scholars. A judge of the shari'a court in Singapore and the sheikh of the Chistiyya Sufi tariqah in Singapore, Kassim is deeply involved in the rehabilitation of Jemaah Islamiyah members that are under detention for plotting terrorist attacks in Singapore. This rehabilitation work has garnered international attention as a model for the reintegration of suspected terrorists that could be replicated in other countries.

## Europe

#### BOSNIA

##### Karic, Dr Enes

Dr Enes Karic is a professor of Qur'anic studies and history of the interpretation of the Qur'an at the Faculty of Islamic Studies with the University of Sarajevo. He previously served as the Minister of Education, Science, Culture and Sports with the Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1994-1996. Dr Karic has written extensively on the Qur'an and Islamic studies in English and Bosnian.

#### FRANCE

##### Bencheikh, Sheikh Sohaib

Bencheikh is a theologian, a modernist former Grand Mufti of Marseilles, and one of the most influential social leaders and scholars of Islam in France. Bencheikh is also head of the Higher Institute for Islamic Studies. Marseilles is a cosmopolitan city with a huge population of Muslims of North African ancestry. Bencheikh is a passionate advocate for integration of the Muslim population, hijab rights and women's involvement as imams in the Muslim community.

#### GERMANY

##### Denffer, Dr Ahmed Von

Dr Ahmed von Denffer is an influential figure in Germany. He has been pivotal in German Islam and is a prominent author and translator of Islamic publications in the German language. He has published works on the Qur'an, the Islamic Sciences, and Christian-Muslim relations.

##### Hoffman, H.E. Ambassador, Dr Murad

Hoffman is an author and Muslim intellectual, respected by both Muslims and non-Muslims. He is a prominent former German diplomat and author of several books on Islam, including *Journey to Makkah* and *The Future of Islam in the West and the East*, published in 2008. Many of his books and essays focus on Islam's place in the West and in the United States—specifically in light of the post-9/11 climate.

"People who understand human nature cannot fail to appreciate the infinite wisdom of the "Dos and don'ts" handed down from God to man in the form of the Qur'an."  
—Dr. Murad Hofmann

#### SWITZERLAND

##### Ramadan, Dr Tariq

Read bio on page 89 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

#### TURKEY

##### Çagrıci, H.E. Prof. Dr Mustafa

Mustafa Çagrıci is the mufti of Istanbul as well as a theology professor and is a respected figure among Turkish Muslims. He welcomed and prayed with Pope Benedict XVI in the Blue Mosque in 2006.

##### Kalin, Dr Ibrahim

Ibrahim Kalin, Ph. D., is Senior Advisor to the Prime Minister of Turkey in charge of Public Diplomacy. Dr. Kalin is the founding-director of the SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research based in Ankara, Turkey and served as its director

from 2005 to 2009. He is a fellow at the Prince Alwaleed Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding at Georgetown University. Dr. Kalin has published widely on Islamic philosophy, relations between Islam and the West, and Turkish foreign policy.

#### **Karaman, Prof. Dr Hayrettin**

Karaman is one of the most prominent scholars of Islam in Turkey, and the preeminent scholar of Islamic law (shari'a) there. He publishes popular and academic texts extensively and writes a weekly column in the newspaper 'Yeni Safak' (New Dawn). His long career in academia has garnered him much respect. At the pinnacle of his career Karaman was a dean at Turkey's premier university, Marmara University. He left this position at the height of the headscarf controversy in 2001.

#### RUSSIA

#### **Gaynutdinov, H.E. Sheikh Ravil Ismagilovich**

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 probably the single most important figure in the schema of Russian Islam. As a member of the Russian president's Council for Relations with Religious Associations he is a key figure in relations between the Kremlin and Russia's Muslim population

#### UNITED KINGDOM

#### **Ali, Dr Anas al Shaikh**

Anas al Shaikh Ali is the chair of the small but dynamic Association of Muslim Social Scientists (AMSS) and the director of the International Institute of Islamic Thought (IIT) London Office. Ali has been at the forefront of a number of international campaigns for better relations between faiths, specifically in promoting the 'A Common Word' initiative and also the fight against the demonization of Islam in media, founding the UK's Forum against Islamophobia and Racism.

#### **Motala, Hadhrat Sheikhul Hadith Maulana Yusuf**

Shiekh Motala is the founder of the Dar ul Ulum Al Arabia Al Ilamia in Holcombe, Bury, Lancashire. He is a scholar's scholar—many of the United Kingdom's young Deobandi scholars have studied under his patronage. Sheikh Motala has an expansive network of students and educational institutions which he has founded.

#### **Shah-Kazemi, Dr Reza [new]**

Dr Shah-Kazemi is a research associate at the Institute of Ismaili Studies in London. He is a specialist in Comparative Religion and has published many books including 'Paths to Transendence' and 'The Other in the Light of the One: The Universality of the Qur'an and Interfaith Dialogue'.

#### **Winter, Timothy (Sheikh Abdal-Hakim Murad)**

Read bio on page 90 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

## 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 in the media. He currently works as a lecturer at the Global Terrorism Research Centre at Monash University, Melbourne.

#### **El Imam, Sheikh Fehmi**

El Imam is one of Australia's most senior Islamic scholars and leaders. As a founding member 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 and also senior imam at the Preston Mosque in Melbourne's northern suburbs.

## North America

#### CANADA

#### **Mattson, Ingrid**

Ingrid Mattson is the director of the Islamic Chaplaincy Program 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. ISNA is the largest Muslim organization in North America, and is an umbrella organization for numerous local and regional Muslim societies and groups in the United States and Canada. She was the 'Plenary speaker on Faith Movements' in Chicago at the Religious Communication Congress in April, 2010 and is author of the acclaimed 'The Story of the Qur'an.'

#### UNITED STATES

#### **Abdullah, Dr Umar Faruq [new]**

Abdullah is an American convert to Islam who founded and now directs the Nawawi Foundation, a Chicago-based non-profit organization that educates Muslims in the US about Islamic teachings, and conducts research on Islam in America. Abdullah has published 'The Story of Alexander Russell Webb,' a biography of Muhammed Webb, one of the significant early American converts to Islam.



### **Al Alwani, Dr Taha Jaber**

Al Alwani is an active academic and organizer in the international community of Sunni Muslim scholars. He is the president of Cordoba University, a former chairman of The Fiqh Council of North America, a member of the OIC's International Islamic Fiqh Academy, and a former president of the US office of the International Institute of Islamic Thought. Al Alwani is also the author of acclaimed works such as: Source Methodology in Islamic Jurisprudence; Towards a Fiqh for Minorities; The Ethics of Disagreement in Islam; Ijtihad; and The Quran and the Sunnah: The Time-Space Factor.

### **Chittick, Dr William [new]**

A renowned interpreter and translator of philosophical and mystical Islamic texts, Dr Chittick is most famous for his works on Rumi and Ibn 'Arabi.

### **Godlas, Dr Alan**

Godlas is an American academic focusing on Islamic mysticism. He is known for his Islamic studies ([www.uga.edu/islam/](http://www.uga.edu/islam/)) and Sufism websites that are highly regarded as leading academic resources for research on Islam.

### **Jackson, Sherman**

Jackson is an Arthur F Thurnau Professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at the University of Michigan and a writer on the African-American Muslim community. Jackson is the co-founder of the American Learning Institute for Muslims and is featured on the Washington Post-Newsweek blog 'On Faith'. He is a former chairman of the Fiqh Council of North America.

### **Al Ninowy, Sheikh Muhammad bin Yahya al Husayni**

Sheikh al Ninowy is the imam of Masjid al-Madina in Atlanta, Georgia and is considered by many to be a charismatic and influential contemporary scholar. Al Ninowy traces his lineage back to al Imam Ibrahim al Mujab, whose lineage is traced to Fatima, the daughter of the Prophet Muhammad. He recently founded an interactive Islamic university, utilizing the latest technology to continue the tradition of Islamic scholarship.

### **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 the Orange County Mosque, with around 7,000 members, and is the former president of the Islamic Society of North America. He is very active in interfaith efforts and is the author of a weekly column on Islamic law. In August 2010, Siddiqui was among eight prominent Muslim American imams and community leaders who partook in a historic trip to two Holocaust camps.

## *South America*

### ✪ ARGENTINA ✪

#### **Garcia, Prof. Muhammad Isa**

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



# Political

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

## Middle East & North Africa

### ALGERIA

#### **Bouteflika, H.E. President Abdelaziz**

Bouteflika is the incumbent president of Algeria. During his ten years of presidency, Bouteflika has succeeded in ending a civil war that ran throughout the nineties and was one of the bloodiest civil unrests of the 20th century in the Muslim World. Peace was reached through a process of reconciliation and amnesty that was strongly supported by the Islamist and Nationalist belligerents.

#### **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

#### **ElBaradei, Dr Mohamed**

Former Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Dr ElBaradei, along with the IAEA, was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2005. He took part in some of the protests against the Mubarak regime in 2011, but has been criticised for not doing enough and for being an 'outsider' to local Egyptian affairs. He currently leads the newly-formed National Association for Change, and is widely-endorsed as a potential presidential candidate.

#### **Ghonim, Wael [new]**

Wael Ghoneim became the symbol of the Egyptian uprising against the Mubarak regime in 2011. A young professional looking to voice his opinion against social injustice, he took to social media Internet sites to spread his message. This contributed significantly to the mass movement which led to the overthrow of the Mubarak regime.

#### **Maher, Ahmed [new]**

Maher is the founder of 6th of April Youth Movement in Egypt. This group organized, planned and acquired training in non vio-

lent strategies for two and a half years prior to Tahrir and chose the time and place for the first Tahrir demonstration.

#### **Moussa, H.E. Amr [new]**

Moussa is the former Secretary-General of the Arab League. He is running for the Presidency of Egypt.

#### **Tantawi, General Mohamed Hussein [new]**

Mohamed Hussein Tantawi is an Egyptian Field Marshal and the commander-in-chief of the Egyptian Armed Forces. In the post-Mubarak era authority was transferred to the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces, headed by Tantawi, making him the de facto leader of Egypt. Tantawi participated in the Sinai War of 1956, the Six-Day War of 1967, the October War of 1973 and the Gulf War of 1991.

## Egypt's Political Parties

The dynamics of the political scene are changing rapidly in Egypt but below are some parties that should be major players in the upcoming elections, the first since Mubarak's ouster:

1. **Freedom & Justice Party:** The Muslim Brotherhood's political party, expected to be the major winners at the upcoming election.
2. **New Center Party:** A splinter from the Muslim Brotherhood that models itself as a centralist party similar to Turkey's AKP party.
3. **Popular Socialist Alliance Party:** a coalition of socialist parties that split from the old socialist Tagamu party.
4. **Egyptian Social Democrats:** moderate leftist party in the vein of the British Labor party.
5. **Free Egyptians:** liberal, free-market party.
6. **Democratic Front Party:** a liberal party with affiliation with international liberal political parties.
7. **Egyptian Freedom Party:** focuses on decentralizing government.
8. **The Justice Party:** a party that has members from both the right and left by focusing on social justice as their underlying platform.
9. **National Democratic Party:** the former party of the Mubarak regime. Although it has been dismantled, its former members are still very powerful and will likely yield much influence.

**Ahmadinejad, H.E. President Mahmoud**

Ahmadinejad is the president of Iran and a former University of Science and Industry lecturer. As president, he has enfranchised the politics of the nation's large conservative, working class population which makes him incredibly influential. In doing so, he also marginalized Iran's rising middle class, a fact that curtails some of his influence on Iranian society. He is a strong supporter of Iran's Nuclear Program.

**Ebtekar, H.E. Dr Masoumeh**

Ebtekar was the first female Vice President of Iran in 1997 and has remained at the center of the revolutionary movement in Iran, since 1979, and has occupied the highest political office to be reached by a woman in the country. She is a considerable force in the reformist movement in Iran, and one of the founding members of the reformist Islamic Iran Participation Front.

**Jafari, General Mohammad Ali**

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), an elite faction of the Iranian armed forces—separate from the army—that reports directly to the Velayat-e Faqih. Jafari is the leader of 300,000 troops, close to 300,000 reservists, and the 20,000 highly trained Quds Force. The Revolutionary Guard Corps occupies cabinet positions, parliament seats, and controls 500 companies in various business industries. The Revolutionary Guard also exerts influence through funding and directing Shi'a movements abroad such as Hezbollah, and the Mahdi Army. Because of this, Jafari has a significant degree of control in Iraq.

**Jalili, Saeed**

Jalili is secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council and the chief Iranian nuclear negotiator. The nuclear issue is central to both Iranian domestic politics—nuclear technology has become somewhat of a goal for Iran—and international geopolitics, as many countries, particularly Israel and the US, are wary of further nuclear proliferation. Jalili was brought in after former negotiator Ali Larajani resigned. His role is pivotal in the future security of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the success of its nuclear program.

**Khatami, H.E. Mohammad**

Mohammad Khatami is a reformist politician who served as president of Iran from 1997 to 2005. Although he was ineffective at bringing around many of the changes from his mandate that were sought by Iranian society, he remains a figurehead of the reformist movement. Khatami was elected to the first Majles al Shura and is known internationally for his proposal in 2000 promoting the UN 'Dialogue Among Civilizations' initiative, a movement he hoped would counter the prevailing sentiment that there was a 'Clash of Civilizations'.

**Mousavi, Mir-Hossein [ #46 in 2010 ]**

Read bio on page 89 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

**Rafsanjani, H.E. Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi**

Ayatollah Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani is a reformer who served as president of Iran from 1989 to 1997. 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 senior positions in Iranian politics as the Expediency Council has the power to dismiss the Supreme Leader. He was classified as one of the "World Leaders to Watch 2010" by Bloomberg Businessweek.

**Rahnavard, Zahra**

Rahnavard is an author and staunch critic of Ahmadinejad. She broke convention by campaigning on her husband Mir-Hossein Mousavi'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 after the Islamic Revolution.

**Al Sadr, Sheikh Muqtada**

Al Sadr is the son of the late Grand Ayatollah Mohammad Mohammad Sadiq al Sadr, and an influential Shi'a political leader. He has gained prominence since the death of Saddam Hussein and created the Mahdi Army in 2003, an armed insurgency movement that has formed its own courts and system of law enforcement. Al Sadr promotes a Shi'a controlled government and along with Grand Ayatollah Ali Sistani he is one of the two most important Shi'a leaders in Iraq. Although there are many more qualified Shi'a scholars, Sadr's social and political role make him extremely important.

**Dari, Harith**

Dari is the current leader of the Sunni Ulema Union, the largest association of Sunni Muslim scholars in Iraq. He is a key figure in the movement to expel foreign troops from Iraq.

**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 religious leader. From 1989 to 2001 Salah also served as the mayor of Umm al Fahm, an Israeli-Arab city. He has been arrested and imprisoned by the Israeli government on a number of occasions.

**Abu Rashta, Ata**

Ata Abu Rashta is the global leader of the Islamic political party Hizb ut Tahrir. Having worked closely with the founder of Hizb ut Tahrir—Taqiuddin an Nabhani—Abu Rashta became prominent in Jordan during the Persian Gulf War when he contested the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait; in 2003 he became the leader of the party. Hizb ut Tahrir is popular in the Levant, the former Soviet Union, South and South East Asia, and Western Europe.

### Farhan, Ishaq

Farhan is the leader of the Islamic Action Front (IAF). The IAF is the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan. Farhan is known as a moderate, and was an early advocate of the participation of women in the Brotherhood movement.

### LEBANON

#### Hariri, H.E. Saad Rafic

Saad Rafic Hariri is the prime minister designate of Lebanon. He is a Lebanese businessman and the son of the late Prime Minister Rafic Hariri. Since his father's assassination in 2005 he has assumed presidency of the Future Movement. He entered parliament in 2005, and remains one of the most prominent leaders of the March 14th group.

### LIBYA

#### Abdul-Jalil, Mustafa [new]

Mustafa Abdul-Jalil is the Chair of Libya's interim government, the National Transition Council. He was the Justice Minister under the Gaddafi regime, but resigned in February, 2011 in protest of excessive government force against civilians.

“Striving to understand moral action entails striving to understand the compassion that is so deeply ingrained in our humanity.”  
—Prof. Dr Aref Ali Nayef

### 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 (Justice and Charity). She has traveled to Europe, promoting the mission of the movement to the Moroccan diaspora. She often serves as the movement's spokesperson.

### PALESTINE

#### Haniyah, Ismail

Haniyah is a senior political leader of Hamas and one of two disputed prime ministers of the Palestinian National 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. Haniyah is a popular figure able to broaden the appeal of Hamas in Gazan politics.

#### Nusseibeh, Sari [new]

Sari Nusseibeh is a Palestinian professor of philosophy and president of the Al-Quds University in Jerusalem. In 2008, Nusseibeh was voted the 24th in a list of Top 100 Public Intellectuals by Prospect Magazine (UK) and Foreign Policy (US). He recently wrote

a popular article for Al Jazeera website entitled 'Why Israel can't be a Jewish State'

### SUDAN

#### Al Bashir, H.E. President Omar

Al Bashir is the current president of Sudan and head of the National Congress Party. He came to power in a coup in 1989 and has since instituted elements of shari'a law throughout the country, including Christian and animist areas. Although the 20-year-old civil war ended in 2005, there are still tensions between the north and south of the country. The referendum to create a new nation in south Sudan was successful and the new nation declared its statehood on July 9, 2011.

#### Al Mahdi, H.E. Imam Sayyed Al Sadiq

Al Mahdi is the president of the moderate Islamic Umma Party, and the imam of the Sufi order Al Ansar. He was prime minister of Sudan until the government was overthrown and he was forced into exile. Al Mahdi has now returned and is working to restore peace and democracy in the Sudan. He derives a significant portion of his authority from the fact that he descends from Muhammad Ahmad, who claimed to be the Mahdi, a prophesied figure that many Muslims believe will return to revive the Islamic faith.

### SYRIA

#### Al Assad, H.E. President Bashar

Al Assad is an Alawite Shi'a and president of the Syrian Arab Republic. Because of its strategic position in the Middle East, Syria is regarded as a major player in any peace agreement in the Middle East. The crackdown on protests in 2011 has caused international isolation for a leader that was being wooed by the US only last year.

### TUNISIA

#### Ghannushi, Rachid

Ghannushi has influenced Tunisian politics since the 1980s when he founded the Renaissance Party. With the fall of President Ben Ali, Ghannushi returned to Tunisia in January 2011, after a 20 year exile. The Renaissance Party is an Islamic political party whose principles and ideals have been widely accepted by Tunisians. In the October 2011 elections, his party received 37% of the vote, winning 90 seats out of 217; the nearest rival won 30 seats.

### UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

#### Al Maktoum, H.H. Amir Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid

Read bio on page 89 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

#### Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed

Al Nahyan is the president of one of the fastest-growing nations in the world. He has significant power over the direction in which the Emirates go 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 a respectful environment is maintained. Under his leadership, the UAE has

seen significant economic growth and the renaming of the Burj Dubai to Burj Khalifa is considered a symbol of Al Nahyan's financial power.

#### **Al Qassimi, Sheikha Lubna [new]**

Sheikha Lubna bint Khalid bin Sultan Al Qassimi is the UAE's Minister for Foreign Trade, the first woman to hold a ministerial post in the UAE. She is seen as a role model for Gulf Arab women.

## *Sub-Saharan Africa*

### 🕌 CHAD 🕌

#### **Deby Itno, H.E. President Idriss**

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 55.7 percent of Chad's 11.4 million people. Deby holds great domestic authority through his ability to consolidate power in Chad. Chad was previously affected by a high frequency of coup d'états. He participated in the negotiated peace agreement in February 2010 between the rebel groups of the Justice and Equality Movement and the Sudanese government.

### 🕌 MALI 🕌

#### **Touré, H.E. President Amadou Toumani**

Touré is the president of Mali which has a 92.4 percent majority of Muslims. He overthrew the military ruler, Moussa Traoré in 1991, then handed power to civilian authorities the next year. Touré won the presidential elections in 2002, with a broad coalition of support and was easily re-elected in 2007.

### 🕌 SOMALIA 🕌

#### **Ahmed, H.E. President Sheikh Sharif Sheikh**

Ahmed is the ninth president of Somalia and former commander in chief of the Islamic Courts Union—a previously militaristic organization that had significant control over the country, which has now reformed into a Somalian political party. Ahmed was educated in shari'a in Sudan and Libya and is a Hafiz of the Qur'an (one who has memorized the entire Qur'an) and the spiritual leader of the Idriseeyah order 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 and declared war on the African Peace Keeping Forces (AMISOM). Although marginalized from mainstream Somali politics, he continues to enjoy significant support from the Al Shabbab resistance movement in Somalia.

## *Asia*

### 🕌 AFGHANISTAN 🕌

#### **Hekmatyar, Gulbuddin**

Former prime minister of Afghanistan (1993-1994, 1996), Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is also founder of the Hezb-e-Islami political party that was founded as a mujahiddeen force against the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan. Since then, it has continued fighting, first against other mujahiddeen forces, and more recently against foreign invaders.

#### **Karzai, H.E. President 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. He was then reelected to a subsequent five-year term in a controversial election in 2009. Karzai has been able to build up considerable support from the Afghans. Under his presidency Afghanistan's economy has been growing rapidly for the first time in many years. His administration does, however, suffer from widespread allegations of corruption. He also came to scrutiny when he announced the creation of a high peace council as part of the reconciliation effort to reintegrate some Taliban militants.

#### **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.

#### **Haqqani, Sirajuddin**

Haqqani heads militant forces based in Waziristan, fighting against American and NATO forces in Afghanistan. His group is reportedly closely allied with Pakistani Taliban. He was one of the leaders on the Taliban's Quetta Shura.

### 🕌 AZERBAIJAN 🕌

#### **Aliyev, H.E. President 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 demands of the population of the country. Azerbaijan, with a population of approximately 8.7 million Muslims is an active member of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

### 🕌 BANGLADESH 🕌

#### **Wazed, H.E. Sheikha Hasina**

Sheikha Hasina Wazed is the current prime minister of Bangladesh and the president of one of Bangladesh's major political parties, the Awami League. Poverty alleviation has become a priority

for one of the poorest but most populous Muslim countries in the world, under Wazed's leadership. Wazed is the daughter of Mujibur Rahman, the first president of Bangladesh.

#### 🕌 INDONESIA 🕌

##### **Djalal, H.E. Dr Dino Patti**

Djalal is the presidential spokesperson for President Yudhoyono, and is also a diplomat, speech writer, youth activist, academic, and author of a national best seller. In 2010, he was appointed Indonesia's ambassador to the United States of America.

#### 🕌 MALAYSIA 🕌

##### **Abidin, H.M. SPB *Yang Dipertuan Agong Tuanku Mizan Zainal***

The Yang DiPertuan Agong is the constitutional monarch of Malaysia, with a population of 27.9 million. He is also the Sultan of Terengganu and currently one of the youngest and longest-reigning Malay rulers. As King, he is also considered the Head of Islam in Malaysia.

##### **Ibrahim, H.E. Dr Anwar**

Read bio on page 88 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

##### **Mohammed, Mahathir Dr. [new]**

Dr. Mahathir Mohammed was the Malaysian Prime minister for 22 years. He was the key figure behind the transition of the agricultural-based economy of Malaysia into a newly industrialized market economy. He is noted for his support for liberal Muslim values and has established Islamic institutions such as the International Islamic University of Malaysia.

# 20%

The percentage of the world's animal species that are contained in Malaysia, one of the 17 "megadiverse" countries in the world. These countries rich in biological diversity have formed a group known as the Like Minded Megadiverse Countries that acts as a mechanism of cooperation on the conservation of biological diversity and traditional knowledge. Malaysia and Indonesia are the two Muslim-majority countries in this group.

##### **Nik Mat, Dato' Haji Nick Abdul Aziz**

Dato' Haji Nik Abdul Aziz Nik Mat is a Malaysian politician, an Islamic scholar and has been the chief minister of the State of Kelantan for the past 20 years. He holds the position of Mursyidul Am—the religious guide—within the Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party (PAS). As the religious guide of the Pan-Malaysian Islamic

Party, Nik Mat is the spiritual leader of Malaysian Islamic politics and holds very important sway over the tenor of politics in the nation. Nik Mat'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.

##### **Razak, Najib Tun**

Razak became the 6th prime minister of Malaysia in 2009. He is focused on domestic economic issues and political reform, promotes economic liberalization, and has stated that Malaysia is led by Islamic principles and is not a secular state. Razak is also the president of the United Malays National Organization (UMNO).

#### 🕌 PAKISTAN 🕌

##### **Hassan, Syed Munawar [new]**

Syed Munawar Hassan is the Amir of the Jamaat-e-Islami Islamist political party in Lahore, which is an influential network of millions of Muslims involved in missionary work, Islamic education, and some relief efforts.

##### **Kayani, General Ashfaq**

Kayani is the Pakistani army's chief of staff as his tenure was extended by a further three years. He has immense influence as the Islamic Republic of Pakistan's leading military figure. Kayani has particular influence currently as the country undergoes continued unrest with significant amounts of power in the hands of non-government-controlled militia, and the federal government finds ways to regain control. In 2010, Kayani was listed in the New Statesman's "50 People Who Matter"; TIME Magazine's "People Who Mattered"; as well as in Businessweek's "World Leaders to Watch".

##### **Khan, Imran [new]**

A sportsman turned politician who is also a widely respected philanthropist, Khan founded and became the chairman of the Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Movement for Justice) party in 1996. He also served as a member of the National Assembly from 2002 to 2007, representing Mianwali. Khan has helped establish the Shaukat Khanum Memorial Cancer Hospital & Research Centre and Mianwali's Namal College.

##### **Rahman, Maulana Fazlur**

Maulana Fazlur Rahman is the Secretary General of the Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal coalition of religious parties in Pakistan's parliament. He is also the president of the Deobandi religio-political organization, Jamiat Ulema-Islam, or Assembly of Islamic Scholars. Rahman leads one of two main branches of the expansive organization which is a member of the National Assembly of Pakistan. He is widely-respected as a dedicated scholar of Islam and is a seasoned politician.

## PHILIPPINES

### 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 1970s, 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.

## SINGAPORE

### Rasheed, H.E. Zainul Abidin

Rasheed is the senior minister of state for foreign affairs for Singapore and the mayor of the North Eastern district of Singapore. Rasheed's activities have a focus on Singapore's diplomatic relations with the Muslim World, and also on sharing knowledge about Singapore's experience of inter-cultural and inter-religious relations with nations with substantial Muslim populations. Rasheed is widely known domestically, having held numerous positions of leadership throughout his career in journalism, organized labor and representing Singapore's large percentage of Muslims.

## TAJIKISTAN

### Rahmon, H.E. Emomali

Rahmon has been the President of Tajikistan since 1994. He has done much to establish a distinct Tajik identity, and has called for closer ties with other Muslim nations in the region. He was listed on TIME Magazine's "Top 10 Autocrats in trouble".

## THAILAND

### Pitsuwan, H.E. 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. ASEAN is one of the most important international organizations in the world, coordinating the economies and politics of some of the fastest-growing middle-income economies in the world. He joined the Rockefeller Foundation Board of Trustees

## TURKMENISTAN

### Berdimuhamedow, H.E. President Gurbanguly Mälikgulyýewiç

Berdimuhamedow has been the president of Turkmenistan since 21 December, 2006. In April 2007, Berdimuhamedow visited Islamic holy sites in Medina; furthering the relationship he seeks to build with the broader Muslim World. He is a moderate Muslim traditionalist who has sought to normalize life in Turkmenistan after the more unorthodox religious beliefs of his predecessor Niyazov.

## 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 the 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.

## FRANCE

### Bechari, Dr Mohammad

Bechari, born in Morocco, is a leader and prolific and dynamic public figure in the landscape of European Islam. He is the president of the French National Federation of Muslims, one of the leading entities organizing Islam in France. He is also the secretary general of the Islamic European Conference, a Europe-wide umbrella organization that seeks to be a single organization representing European Muslims at a European level. Bechari is the founder of the Avicenna Institute in Lille and is the Vice President of the French Council of the Muslim Faith.

## KOSOVO

### Thaçi, H.E. Prime Minister Hashim

Thaçi 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. Thaçi is the prime minister of the newly formed Kosovan national government. Kosovo itself is significant as an important cause for international Muslim solidarity, and is the most recently recognized Muslim-majority country in the world.

## RUSSIA

### Kadyrov, H.E. President Ramzan

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

### Minnikhanov, H.E. President Dr Rustam

Dr Minnikhanov is the newly-elected president of the Republic of Tatarstan of the Russian Federation. Tatarstan is an affluent region in the center of Russia, and its religious culture has been lauded as a model of the combination of Islam and European culture. President Minnikhanov is the former Prime Minister of the Republic of Tatarstan, and was nominated for the presidency by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev.



🌿 SPAIN 🌿

**Bakkach El Aamrani, Mostafa**

El Aamrani is a notable writer, poet and journalist of Moroccan descent. In early March 2010 he created the Partido Renacimiento y Unión España or PRUNE party as its founding president. The PRUNE party is the first national Islamic political party in Spain and is based on a platform of 'justice, equality, and solidarity'. PRUNE intends to contest the municipal elections next year in places where the Muslim population is concentrated.

🌿 TURKEY 🌿

**Davutoglu, H.E. Ahmet**

Read bio on page 88 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

🌿 UNITED KINGDOM 🌿

**Ahmed, Lord Nazir**

Nazir Ahmed is the first Muslim member of the House of Lords, the upper chamber of the United Kingdom's bicameral parliament. Membership is for life, and underlines the respect and trust he enjoys in the British establishment. Ahmed has worked on issues relating to Islam and Britain's Muslim community. He also works internationally to promote dialogue and freedom of religion.

**Warsi, Lady 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. She is considered to be the most powerful Muslim woman in the UK by the Equality and Human Rights Commission.

## North America

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🌿 UNITED STATES 🌿

**Carson, Andre**

Andre Carson is one of only two Muslims [the other being Keith Ellison] serving in the US Congress. He was elected to Congress in 2008, and then re-elected in 2010. He helped pass the health care reform and works to improve the lives of working families in Indianapolis.

**Ellison, Representative Keith**

Keith Ellison is the first Muslim to serve in the US Congress. He is serving his second term in the Fifth Congressional District of Minnesota in the United States House of Representatives and also serves on the Financial Services and Foreign Affairs Committees. Representative Ellison has been an outspoken advocate for American Muslims and his trips to the Muslim World, such as a visit to

Palestine in the aftermath of the Israeli attacks in 2009, have garnered international support for his outreach to the Muslim World.

**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. Hussain was subsequently named the US envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, in March 2010. He is lauded for his balance of secular and religious leadership as a young Muslim lawyer and *hafiz* (one who has memorized the entire Qur'an), playing a key role in advising the American President on US-Muslim world affairs.



# Administration of Religious Affairs

These agents of change are responsible for founding and/or directing institutions that influence the religious affairs of Muslims.

## Middle East & North Africa

### ALGERIA

#### Ghlamallah, H.E. Bouabdellah

Ghlamallah is Algeria's long-standing Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, a position he has held since the election of current President Bouteflika in 1999. He previously held high level positions in the Ministry of Education throughout the 1980s and 1990s where he went from focusing on basic education to the organization of Qur'anic schools and religious education. Ghlamallah maintains a strong commitment to France's Algerian Muslim community.

### EGYPT

#### Al Hussein, Dr Abd Allah

Dr Abd Allah al Hussein was appointed to the Presidency of the Al Azhar University upon the resignation of Sheikh Ahmad Muhammad al Tayyeb in March 2010. Al Hussein is formerly the Vice President for educational and student affairs at Al Azhar.

#### El-Araby, H.E. Nabil

Nabil el-Araby is an Egyptian diplomat who is currently the Secretary-General of the Arab League. He has previously held the post of Foreign Minister of Egypt as well as working in many well esteemed positions in the United Nations.

### IRAN

#### Vaez-Tabasi, H.E. 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. Its 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.

### MOROCCO

#### Modghari, H.E. Dr Abd Al Kabir

Modghari is the director of the Casablanca-based Bayt Mal al Quds agency of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, which is devoted to safeguarding the city of Jerusalem and its religious, architectural and cultural heritage, and also providing development assistance to the Palestinian population and their institutions. Modghari was a former long-term Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco representing the late King Hassan II.

#### Al Tawfiq, Ahmad [new]

Al Tawfiq is the Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs in Morocco. He is a strong supporter of sufi groups. He is a writer for the Moroccan Association for authorship, publications and translation as well as the Vice President of the Moroccan institution for historical research.

### PALESTINE

#### Sabri, H.E. Sheikh Dr Ikrima Sa'id

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. Sabri is an important figure who is well-respected by many in Palestine for his forthright views on Israel.

### SAUDI ARABIA

#### Al Arifi, Muhammad [new]

Dr Al Arifi is a well-known scholar and lecturer from Saudi Arabia. He is a founding and honorary member of various Da'wah organisations, as well as being a member of their advisory committees. He is also a professor in King Saud University of Riyadh. He takes a special interest in Hadith literature and has received licenses for the chains of transmission for various Hadith texts from a number of scholars.

### 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 Kuwaiti Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs; its aim is to promote Islamic moderation domestically and around the world. The center 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.

#### 🕌 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 🕌

##### **Al Haddad, Dr Ahmed**

Dr Ahmed al Haddad is the Grand Mufti of Dubai and director of the Dubai Fatwa Administration with the Department of Islamic Affairs and Charitable Activities. In late 2009 Dr al Haddad announced the start of a program designed to develop a cadre of fully-trained and certified female muftis who will be able to issue fatwas and be recognized as leading Islamic scholars alongside their male counterparts. This is considered to be the first deliberate attempt at including women at the highest levels of Islamic scholarship in Dubai, and presents the possibility of a female Grand Mufti in the future.

## *Sub-Saharan Africa*

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#### 🕌 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.

#### 🕌 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. Relations between the Muslim population of Kenya and the broader society, especially the government, have frayed recently with the instances of demonizing Muslims as terrorists. There is widespread displeasure among the coastal Muslim population with the national government.

#### 🕌 MOZAMBIQUE 🕌

##### **Cheba, Sheikh Muhamad Aboulai**

Cheba is the provincial director of 139 registered madrasahs (Islamic schools), where pupils start learning about HIV/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. HIV/AIDS affects roughly 15 percent of the adult population of Mozambique.

#### 🕌 SOUTH AFRICA 🕌

##### **Hendricks, Maulana Igsaan**

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 the administration of Cape Town's Al Azhar Institute.

#### 🕌 NIGERIA 🕌

##### **Ajibola, H.E. Prince Bola**

Prince Bola Ajibola is the former head of the Nigerian High Commission in London and the president and founder of the Islamic Movement for Africa. He also served as the vice chairman of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague between 1991 and 1994. In 1994 Prince Ajibola was appointed Judge ad-hoc to the Permanent Court of International Arbitration, with respect to the court's deliberations on the land dispute between Nigeria and Cameroon. He also served as the Attorney General and Minister of Justice in Nigeria. Most recently he founded the Crescent University, in Abeokuta, Nigeria. He is also a senior fellow of the Aal Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought in Jordan.

##### **Mohamed, Imam Ustaz Musa**

Imam Mohamed is the chief imam of the Abuja National Mosque in Nigeria. As the leading imam of the national mosque of Nigeria, Imam Mohamed is often the spokesperson for Islamic religious affairs in the country.

#### 🕌 ZIMBABWE 🕌

##### **Menk, Mufti Ismail Musa**

Mufti Ismail Musa Menk is the director of the Daarul Ilm (Islamic Educational Centre) of the Majlisul Ulama. The Majlisul Ulama Zimbabwe is an Islamic welfare organization which caters to the needs of the Muslim population of Zimbabwe, especially in terms of Islamic education. Menk is a noted scholar in eastern Africa and also lectures internationally.

## *Asia*

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#### 🕌 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, publish-

ing, offering scholarships and also providing funding to maintain mosques. The head office of the Islamic Foundation is in Dhaka, and is supported by six regional offices and 58 district offices. The organization runs seven imam training centers and 29 centers for da'wa.

#### 🕌 CAMBODIA 🕌

##### **Adam, H.E. Zakaryya**

H.E. Zakaryya Adam is a member of the Cambodian parliament, and serves as a member of the Commission on Education, Youth, Sport, Religious Affairs, Culture and Tourism. Previously, he held the position of secretary of state in the Ministry of Cult and Religion. In addition to his government service, he serves as Vice President of the Highest Council for Islamic Religious Affairs, as the Vice President of the Cambodian Muslim Development Foundation (CMDF), general secretary for the Cambodian Islamic Center (CIC), and as a director of Cambodian Islamic Voice Radio. Adam has translated the Qur'an, as well as other Islamic books, from Arabic into the Khmer language for Cambodian readers; he has also written a Melayu-Khmer dictionary

#### 🕌 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 23 million Muslims coming almost exclusively from minority groups. Guangyuan, has also recently spoken out in opposition to violence against Uighurs.

#### 🕌 INDIA 🕌

##### **Ahmad, Sheikh Aboobakar**

Shaikh Aboobakar Ahmad is the General Secretary of the All India Muslim Scholars Association and founder and Vice Chancellor of Jamia Markazu Ssaquafathi Ssunniyya (Sunni Cultural Centre), Karanthur, Kozhikode, Kerala. He is also chief patron of the Sunni Youth Society and General Secretary, Jamiat Ulema (Kerala). He was awarded with the "Shaik Muhiyudheen Abdul Khadar Jeelani Award" in 2009.

#### 🕌 INDONESIA 🕌

##### **Mahfudz, Sahal**

Mahfudz was re-elected as chief of the consultative body (syuriah) of the Nahdlatul Ulama in March 2010, this is his third term since 1999. Since 2000 he has been the head the Indonesia Ulema Council, which comprises both Muhammadiyah and Nahdlatul Ulama, Indonesia's most influential Islamic organizations. The Ulama Council grants halal food certification and also actively produces fatwas. Besides being a Dean of Nahdlatul Ulama Institute, Jepara, Sahal also manages Maslakul Huda, a Pesantren that actively sup-

ports the economic development of the surrounding neighborhood through its microfinance program.

##### **Umar, Dr Nasaruddin**

Nasaruddin is the director general of religious guidance at the Indonesian Ministry of Religious Affairs. He is also a rector at the Institute for Advanced Qur'anic Studies in Indonesia and secretary general of the Nahdhatul Ulama Consultative Council.

#### 🕌 MALDIVES 🕌

##### **Saeed, Mohamed Shaheem Ali**

Saeed is the minister of state for Islamic Affairs for the Republic of Maldives. His knowledge of Islam has provided good leadership to his ministry, especially in the drafting of regulations under the Religious Unity Act of the Maldives which, he believes, would provide a legal framework to protect Islam. Saeed is also collaborating with the Maldives National Broadcasting Corporation to introduce a new television channel which would focus on relating Islam to the broader issues of society. He was a member of the World Islamic People's Leadership and the Islamic Fiqh Academy in the Maldives and has advocated for a study regarding comparative religion.

#### 🕌 PAKISTAN 🕌

##### **Siddiqui, Dr Anwar Hussain**

Siddiqui is the president of the International Islamic University in Islamabad, a school aiming to produce scholars and practitioners able to use their Islamic learning to meet the economic, social, political, and intellectual needs of the ummah.

#### 🕌 SRI LANKA 🕌

##### **Mufthi, M.I.M. Rizvi**

M.I.M. Rizvi Mufthi is the head of All Ceylon Jamiyyathul Ulama (ACJU), an organization that plays an active role as the Islamic religious higher authority of Sri Lanka with 3000 active members under its 22 districts and 15 divisional branches. ACJU has recently established a Halal Certification Authority in Sri Lanka and also publishes a quarterly 'Halal Guide' which lists the organisations/products that are certified as Halal by the authority. One of the pioneering scholars in the field of Islamic banking and finance, Mufthi is a member of the sharia advisory councils for a number of Islamic financial institutions in Sri Lanka.

#### 🕌 UZBEKISTAN 🕌

##### **Alemov, H.E. Usman**

Alemov has been the chief mufti of Uzbekistan 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. Alemov was instrumental in making Tashkent the UNESCO Capital of Islamic Culture for 2007.

## Europe

### ALBANIA

#### Koci, Hafiz Sabri

Hafiz Sabri Koci is chairman of the Albanian Islamic Community, 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.

### AUSTRIA

#### Shakfeh, Anas

Shakfeh is the head of the Islamic Faith Community in Austria (IGGIOE). He has been its 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.

### BULGARIA

#### Hadzhi, H.E. Mustafa Alish

Hadzhi is Bulgaria's chief mufti. Bulgaria has recently been referred to as 'Istanbulia' 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; he is taking the case to the EU.

### DENMARK

#### Pederson, Abdul Wahid

Abdul Wahid Pederson is the Vice President of Muslims in Dialogue, which promotes Islam within Denmark. Pederson is also the principal of three elementary schools, vice chairman of the Islamic Christian Study Centre, foreign relations manager of the Muslim Council of Denmark, 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 a leader of the Tatar Muslim population of Helsinki. Tatar Muslims have lived in Finland for centuries. He is influential in community relations with the Christian-majority society of Finland due to his promoting ways to adapt flexibly while maintaining cultural heritage, and he is also influential through promoting relations with the various Tatar communities in Eu-

rope. Daher is also head of the Islamic Community of Finland and an advisor to the President of the Republic of Finland.

### FRANCE

#### Moussaoui, Mohammed

Moussaoui is the President of the French Council on Muslim Faith. The CFCM was established in 2003 by then Interior Minister Nicolas Sarkozy to be the 'official' representative body of the French Muslim community. Council members are directly elected by French Muslims.

# 69.3 Billion

The estimated size of the global Halal food market in Europe in 2010 (in US dollars).

### 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. Pallavicini is also the imam of the al Wahid Mosque of Milan in Via Meda, where he organizes the training of imams in Italian. His father is Abd Al Wahid Pallavicini, the noted preacher and head of the Ahamadiyyah Idrissiyyah Shadhiliyyah brotherhood in Italy.

### KOSOVO

#### Trnava, H.E. Sheikh Naim

Naim Trnava is the Grand Mufti of Kosovo. He is the leading religious figure in Kosovo, which 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.

### PORTUGAL

#### Vakil, Abdool Magid Abdool Karim

Abdool Magid Abdool Karim Vakil is the founder and president of the Islamic Community (Comunidade Islâmica de Lisboa), the co-founder and president of the Abrahamic Forum of Portugal (Forum Abraâmico de Portugal) and a member of the Committee for Religious Freedom of the Ministry of Justice of Portugal. He is one of the leading economists from the region and has received several awards for his work from the Portuguese government.

RUSSIA

**Nasibullahoglu, Mufti Cafer**

Cafer Nasibullahoglu is the imam of the St Petersburg Mosque. He is also the mufti of St Petersburg, which is home to approximately 700 thousand Muslims. His diverse congregation consists of Muslims of Tatar, Kazakh, Uzbek, Tajik, and Arab origin, among others, and the sermon at St Petersburg mosque is often conducted in Arabic, Tatar, and Russian.

SWEDEN

**Bin Ouda, Helena**

Bin Ouda is the chairwoman of the Muslim Council of Sweden, which is the main representative body for Muslims living in Sweden. The council is an umbrella organization representing a number of Islamic organizations in the country and currently has nine member organizations, with a sum total of about 100,000 members.

SWITZERLAND

**Maizar, Hisham**

Hisham Maizar is president of the Federation of Islamic Organizations of Switzerland. The FIOS was established as an umbrella organization for Islamic movements in Switzerland and has member organizations representing over 100 ethnic groups including Swiss, Albanians, Arabs, Bosnians, Turks, and Africans. Switzerland has as many as 400,000 Muslims and is considered to have some of the most anti-Islamic sentiments in Europe.

TURKEY

**Bardakoglu, Prof. Dr Ali**

Ali Bardakoglu is the president of the Presidency of Religious Affairs in Turkey (Diyanet). He is a moderate Islamic leader who supports interfaith initiatives and in 2005 appointed two women to the position of vice mufti. The Presidency of Religious Affairs has significant influence over the activities of religious associations and places of worship in the country. He is former professor of Islamic law at the University of Marmara.

UNITED KINGDOM

**Ahsan, Dr Manazir**

Ahsan is the director general of the Islamic Foundation, Leicester. The Islamic Foundation is one of the main centers working for integration and understanding of Islam in the UK.

**Nahdi, Fuad**

Fuad Nahdi is the 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.

*Oceania*

NEW ZEALAND

**Ghani, Dr Anwar**

Ghani is president of the Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ). His work leading FIANZ has been considerable; building bridges with the government as well as with the broader New Zealand population and leaders of other faiths.

*North America*

CANADA

**Valiante, Wahida**

A social worker and therapist by profession, Wahida Valiante is a founding member, and currently, the president of the Canadian Islamic Congress. The CIC is made up of 24 organizations and the CIC's newsletter has 300,000 subscribers worldwide. She is a published author of books on theories of family therapy and community issues. She is an outspoken advocate of the rights of Canadian Muslims and also serves as the chair of the Islamic History Month in Canada.

UNITED STATES

**Ali, Imam Mohammad Shamsi**

Imam Mohammad Shamsi Ali is the imam of three New York City mosques, including the 96th Street Mosque; the city's largest mosque, and is the 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. Since September 11, 2001, New York's Muslim population has been under close scrutiny, and interfaith activities have been both high-profile, and well-supported, giving religious leaders in the city a globally significant role in defusing tensions between religions.

**Ghazi, Drs. Abidullah and Tasneema**

Dr Abidullah Ghazi, a prominent writer, speaker and poet is co-founder of the IQRA' International Educational Foundation with his wife Dr Tasneema Ghazi. IQRA' is a non-profit organization that creates Islamic studies textbooks and educational materials especially for children. The institution has produced a complete system of Islamic education for part and full time schools and a comprehensive madrasah integrated program for the Singapore madrasah system. IQRA's programs and educational materials are used in the United States, and worldwide.

### **Magid, Imam Mohamed**

Imam Magid is the executive director and imam at the ADAMS Center in Virginia. He is an advocate for youth and women, is the president of ISNA, and serves on the FBI's Muslim, Sikh, and Arab Advisory Committee. Imam Magid was among the ten 'Washingtonians of the year' in 2010 who were awarded the Washingtonian Magazine's award for outstanding leadership, in particular for his efforts toward interfaith bridge-building. He has served as an advisor to many in Washington, including President Obama.

when non-Muslims became interested in learning about Islam. Suquillo's books have become bestsellers since then. He is very well-respected, especially by South American Muslim scholars.

## *Caribbean*

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### 🕌 JAMAICA 🕌

#### **Muhammad, Mustafa**

Muhammad is a spokesperson for the Muslim population of Jamaica and 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 that are attended regularly by an estimated 5,000 Muslims.

### 🕌 TRINIDAD & TOBAGO 🕌

#### **Ali, Imam Yacooob**

Ali is the president of the largest and most influential Muslim organization in Trinidad and Tobago, the Anjuman Sunnat ul Jamaat Association (ASJA) which was founded in 1936. Ali's organization runs numerous schools and focuses on the importance of education for Muslim youth.

## *South America*

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### 🕌 ARGENTINA 🕌

#### **Hallar, Muhammad Yusuf**

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

### 🕌 ECUADOR 🕌

#### **Suquillo, Juan**

Suquillo is an imam and the director and co-founder of the Islamic Centre of Ecuador. He has received awards in recognition of his services to the nation, and has translated many books into Spanish. These have become very popular since the 9/11 attacks



# Preachers & Spiritual Guides

Preachers rely on charisma to inspire millions through multimedia while spiritual guides traditionally teach through live study circles and individualized directives to their disciples.

## Middle East & North Africa

### ALGERIA

#### Belkaid, Shaykh Abdellatif [new]

Shaykh Abdellatif is well-known in Algeria, Egypt and Europe as a spiritual teacher who inherited the spiritual gifts of his father. His students include many in high positions in the Algerian government, and also included the famous Egyptian scholar, Shaykh Sha'rawi before the latter's death.

#### Al-Khair, Shaykh Abdul-Nacer [new]

Shaykh Abdul-Nacer is a master of the Shadhili tariqah and has a wide following in his native Algeria, as well as Egypt, Malaysia and various countries in Europe. He is a descendant of the famous Sufi Sayyid, Abdul Salam Mashish.

### 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 of the Qur'an (one who has memorized the entire Qur'an). He is also the director of the Qur'anic Studies Centre at the Dubai International Holy Qur'an Award. As well as working in his native Egypt, he travels abroad to help Muslim communities, working specifically with the Muslim community in Canada.

#### 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 and is recognized for his global influence through media productions on television and on YouTube.

### IRAQ

#### Kubaisi, Sheikh Dr Ahmed

Kubaisi is a very popular Sunni cleric and preacher in Iraq, who preaches for the end of foreign occupation in Iraq and the institution of an Islamic state. To this end he is a spokesperson of the Sunni Ulema Council, an important association of Sunni Muslim

scholars in Iraq. Kubaisi leads prayers that are televised worldwide from the state mosque of Abu Dhabi.

### JORDAN

#### Keller, Sheikh Nuh

Sheikh Nuh Keller is a scholar and specialist in Islamic law and sufism. He holds the distinction of translating the first Islamic legal work in a European language to receive certification from Al Azhar University. Sheikh Nuh possesses a number of ijazas in various disciplines, most notably as an authorized sheikh of the Shadhiliya sufi order and teaches students from his *zawiyah* in Jordan as well as at annual gatherings all over the world. In May 2011 he published his latest book, *Sea Without Shore*, an extensive modern manual on Sufism written in English.

### MOROCCO

#### Al Boutchich, Sidi Hamza al Qadiri [new]

The Tariqa (Path to God) under the leadership of Sidi Hamza Al Qadiri Boutchich has attracted disciples from all over the world, but especially from Europe. The Bouchichiya Tariqa was founded by his grandfather who organized armed resistance against the French occupation of Morocco.

#### Al-Fasi, Mulana Idriss [new]

Idriss Alfasi is the Imam of the oldest university in the world, the Qarawiyyin in Fes. He is also head of the Islamic Theology department as well as being a professor in the faculty of Shari'a. He is renowned for his profound and cheerful method of teaching.

### PALESTINE

#### Al Rifa'i, Shaykh Muhammad Said al-Jamal [new]

Sheikh Al Rifa'i is a guide of the Shadhiliyya Path, founded by Sheikh Ali Abu-l-Hasan as-Shadhili in Egypt in the thirteenth century. In 1997 he restored the 1,000 year old Sufi Council in the Holy Land and became head of the Council. He is a teacher and central figure at the Holy Al-Aqsa Mosque, one of the three holiest sites in Islam. The Sheikh has students and followers not only in the Holy Land but in America and Europe also.

## QATAR

### Philips, Dr Abu Ameenah Bilal

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

## SAUDI ARABIA

### Al Shugairi, Ahmad

Al Shugairi is a televangelist with a huge following around the world. He is at the forefront of a religious revivalist movement that is affecting young people across the Middle East. In addition to his work as a television host, al Shugairi is the founder of the youth-centric coffee shop, 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.

## Sub-Saharan Africa

## NIGERIA

### Bayero, H.R.H. Amir al Haji Dr Ado

H.R.H. Ado Bayero is the current Amir of Kano. The Amir is the traditional ruler of the Nigerian city of Kano, which is the capital of 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. HRH Ado Bayero is regarded as a wise counselor both at home and abroad because of his experience and ability to mediate between cultures. This makes him an important asset in promoting mutual understanding and resolving conflicts between different ethnic and religious groups.

### Katsina, Sheikh Yakubu Musa

Sheikh Yakubu Musa Katsina is a popular preacher in Nigeria. He is also the leader of the Izala revivalist sect in Katsina. The Izala, or Jama'at Izalatil Bidiawa Iqamatus Sunnah (Movement Against Negative Innovations and for Orthodoxy) is an activist Sufi brotherhood which calls for a return to the practices of the Prophet Muhammad and a true practice of Islam. Hailing from Katsina, the predominantly Muslim city in northern Nigeria, Sheikh Katsina is outspoken against corruption in the country.

## Asia

## INDIA

### Azmi, H.E. Hazrat Allama Maulana Qamaruzzaman [new]

Maulana Azmi is the Khalifa of Imam Ahmed Raza Khan Bareilly's son. He is a prolific speaker and according to the Times of India, has millions of followers all over the world. At the age of 18 he established the Islamic university, Al-Jame-atul-Islamia, which is currently recognized as one of India's top Islamic universities. He has for over 50 years been building many organizations and institutions, mosques, colleges and universities all over the world.

### Naik, Dr Zakir Abdul Karim

Read bio on page 88 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

### Qaudri, Professor Sayid Ameen Mian

Professor Sayid Ameen Mian Qaudri is leader of the Indian Bareilly and a sajjada nashin, or Sufi disciple of the Barkatiya Sufi tradition which stems from the Qadiriyyah tradition of eminent Sufi master, 'Abd al Qadir al Jilani (1077-1166 CE). Qaudri is also a professor of Urdu at India's esteemed Aligarh Muslim University.

## INDONESIA

### Alawiyah, Prof. Dr Tuti

Alawiyah was the Indonesian Minister of Women's Empowerment in President Suharto's last cabinet. Alawiyah is currently the dean of one of Indonesia's oldest and most prominent Islamic educational institutions, the As Syafi'iyah University. She is a prolific preacher and broadens her reach through her regular television appearances on almost all Indonesian television channels.

### Gymnastiar, Abdullah 'Aa Gym'

Abdullah Gymnastiar, more commonly known as Aa Gym (Elder Brother), is Indonesia's most popular preacher. With his style of modern, youthful, enjoyable preaching he has built a substantial following and a media empire. He maintains a regular audience of over 80 million Indonesians with an approval rating of close to 90 percent. Gymnastiar is both preacher and performer; he is an attractive and charismatic young man, he makes jokes, tells stories and then sings nasheed (religious songs) accompanied by lights, dry ice, and a band.

### Shihab, Quraish

Quraish Shihab is an Indonesian expert on Qur'anic exegesis who regularly preaches on national television. He is noted as a progressive scholar who teaches Qur'anic exegesis using actual context and simple language. He is an author of many Islamic books, including 'Tafsir Al-Misbah'. He served as Indonesian Minister of Religious Affairs in 1998 and also as chairman of the Indonesian Ulama Council since 1984. Shihab was also a director of State Islamic University, Syarif Hidayatullah 1992-1998.

## 🕌 MALAYSIA 🕌

### **Ibrahim, Dato Mashitah**

Ibrahim is a prominent motivational preacher in Malaysia, and a lecturer at University Islam Antarabangsa Malaysia, who is now active in politics. Sultan Pahang awarded her with the honorary title 'dato' for her devotion to da'wa initiatives in 2000. Her views and opinions on contemporary Islamic issues receive wide attention.

## 🕌 PAKISTAN 🕌

### **Akhtar, Dr Ahmad Rafique [new]**

A university professor for many years, Dr Rafique has now dedicated himself to giving lectures on various aspects of Islam. He is particularly popular in middle-upper class circles.

### **Akhtar, Hazrat Maulana Shah Hakeem Muhammad**

Maulana Shah Hakeem Muhammad Akhtar is a Sufi scholar of the Ashrafia order based in Karachi. He has authored numerous books on Islamic spirituality including a popular commentary on the Mathnawi of Jalaluddin Rumi. Akhtar attracts a vast audience at his spiritual center or khanqah for islah-e-nafs (self-correction) and online, where his talks are broadcast live daily.

### **Qadiri, Sheikh Muhammad Ilyas Attar**

Sheikh Muhammad Ilyas Attar Qadiri is a leader of the Qadiriyyah, Radaviyyah, Attariya branch of the Qadiriyyah Sufi order. He is also the founder of Dawat-e-Islami, a Sunni Bareilwi revivalist movement centering on the propagation of Islamic knowledge. Qadiri is a widely-respected sheikh with a significant global following.

### **Shaikh, Mohammad**

As the founder of the International Islamic Propagation Center (IIPC) (a da'wa organization based in Karachi), Mohammad Shaikh is well-known as an influential public speaker. He has given numerous lectures on the Qur'an and also founded the English-language IIPC TV channel which broadcasts to viewers across the globe. He was ranked 4th most influential Muslim in the world on a public poll by Reuters in 2009.

## Europe

## 🕌 ITALY 🕌

### **Pallavicini, Sheikh Abd al Wahid**

Sheikh Abd al Wahid Pallavicini is a noted preacher from Milan, Italy. After converting to Islam in 1951, he joined the Ahamadiyyah Idrissiyyah Shadhiliyyah Sufi order and is now head of the brotherhood in Italy. His son is Imam Yahya Sergio Yahe Pallavicini, the chairman of the ISESCO Council for Education and Culture in the West and imam of the Al Wahid Mosque of Milan.

## 🕌 UNITED KINGDOM 🕌

### **Ul Haq, Abu Yusuf Riyadh**

A leading Deobandi scholar in the UK, he has been markedly influential through his work with the Al Kawthar Academy in Leicester. Al Kawthar is a leading Islamic educational institution at the forefront of knowledge proliferation through diverse media forms.

### **As-Sufi, Sheikh Abd al Qadir**

Sheikh as-Sufi is the founder of the Murabitun World Movement. Born Ian Dallas in Scotland, As-Sufi converted to Islam in 1967. He has written on a wide-range of subjects, and is especially well-known for his criticisms of modern banking and modern education.

## North America

## 🕌 CANADA 🕌

### **Alshareef, Muhammad**

Muhammad Alshareef is the founder and president of Al Maghrib Institute, an innovative Islamic educational institution that offers university-level instruction of Islamic studies through double-weekend seminars and retreats to over 30,000 students throughout the world. Alshareef is also the founder of DiscoverU project, an Islam-based personal development institute that trains life coaches to help those navigating financial, marital or emotional obstacles in life. He is a highly-sought after teacher and public speaker.

### **Badawi, Dr Jamal**

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

### **Rabbani, Sheikh Faraz**

Sheikh Rabbani is the founder, education director, and instructor at SeekersGuidance an educational institute featuring a very popular Q&A service, online courses, and occasional retreats. In August 2011 he helped launch SeekersHub in Toronto with affiliated branches being developed in Australia and elsewhere. He was formally a central figure with SunniPath.com where his popular Q&As and online courses helped establish it as the web's most respected online learning institute at the time.

## 🕌 UNITED STATES 🕌

### **Estes, Sheikh Yusuf**

Sheikh Yusuf Estes is a well-known preacher of a moderate Salafi background who lectures all over the world. He is the former national Muslim chaplain for the US Bureau of Prisons and uses technology, such as uploading lectures on the Internet and appearing on television to spread Islam in an accessible manner. His website has over 13 million unique hits.

### **Kabbani, Shaykh Muhammad Hisham**

Shaykh Kabbani established the American branch of the Haqqani Educational Foundation, dedicated to the promotion of the fundamental Islamic teachings of tolerance, respect and peace. Since Shaykh Muhammad Nizam Adil's retirement, Kabbani has become the leader of the Naqshbandi Haqqani Sufi Order. In 1991, Kabbani moved to the United States and has since founded 23 study and meeting centers in the United States and Canada as well as an Islamic retreat center in Michigan focusing on spreading Sufi teachings.

### **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. He has worked with Shiekh Hamza Yusuf to develop the first American Islamic seminary, which graduated its inaugural class in 2008. They have since co-founded Zaytuna College, which aspires to become a fully accredited institution.

*“Within us all there lies the potential to realize our dream. However, within only a few of us there lies the courage to realize our potential.”  
—Imam Zaid Shakir*

### **Wahhaj, Siraj**

Siraj Wahhaj is imam of the Al Taqwa Mosque in Brooklyn, a prolific lecturer, community activist, the leader of the Muslim Alliance in North America, and former Vice President of ISNA. He first became famous for his successful efforts in fighting drugs and crime in his neighborhood. In 1991, he became the first Muslim to recite the Opening Prayer of the Qur'an (Al Fatiha) at the US House of Representatives.

### **Webb, Imam Suhaib**

Imam Suhaib Webb was a student at Al Azhar University in Egypt from 2004–2010 and has come to prominence as a young American preacher and activist from Oklahoma. He has a substantial following of Muslim youth who visit his website and attend his lectures in throngs due to his unique appeal and moderate approach to Islam. His website, [www.SuhaibWebb.com](http://www.SuhaibWebb.com), was voted

the best “Blog of the Year” by the 2009 Brass Crescent awards and his tweets won him the vote of “Best Muslim Tweeter” of 2010.

## *Central America*

## 🕌 EL SALVADOR 🕌

### **Qattan, Dr Ahmad**

Qattan is a Muslim convert of Palestinian origin. He is the co-founder of the Arab Islamic Center in Salvador. Qattan has been an educator and da'wa activist for the past 17 years, and has published more than 100,000 copies of an introductory text on Islam, which 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 which have been published on various Islamic websites. He is one of the writers and editors at Islamweb.net.

# Philanthropy, Charity & Development

These activists work in the field, affecting the world through poverty alleviation programmes, emergency aid, charitable giving, sponsorships of various initiatives for people and communities to become self-reliant.

## Middle East & 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. As a researcher in Islamic Affairs, Sayyed Jawad has authored various studies and articles on the religious minorities in Iraq and the need for interfaith dialogue.

#### 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. In 2008, she was selected by Time magazine as one of the most influential people in the world.

### 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, focusing on education, health care, and social issues.

#### Al Sadr, Rabab

Rabab al Sadr is a social and human rights activist and a philanthropist. She is a dynamic thinker and is the president of the Imam al Sadr Foundation, one of the most successful humanitarian organizations working in Lebanon. The foundation's projects focus on training, development and poverty alleviation across Lebanon. She is the sister of Imam Musa al Sadr.

### SAUDI ARABIA

#### Abu Sulayman, Muna

Muna Abu Sulayman is the Director of The Alwaleed Bin Talal Foundation, and was the first Saudi woman to become a regional TV personality. She is one of the founding co-hosts of the show "Kalam Nawa'em" which was ranked number one across the Arab World for five years in a row. She was also chosen as the first Saudi UN Goodwill Ambassador for the UNDP as well as a Young Global Leader at the World Economic Forum in the same year.

#### Kreidie, Dr Samir

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. He is also a director at Development Foundation International, an organization which strives to increase American participation in Lebanese humanitarian efforts.

#### Al Madani, H.E. Dr Ahmad Mohamed Ali

Al Madani is the president of the Islamic Development Bank, which aims to provide short and long-term solutions to poverty alleviation in the Muslim World. The Islamic Development Bank is the principal financing institution of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Previously, al Madani served as the deputy minister of education in Saudi Arabia, and as secretary general of the Muslim World League. He currently serves as a Member of the Board of Trustees of King Abdullah University of Science and Technology.

#### Al Rajhi, 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 additional outlets 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. He has been listed as one of the "Richest Arabs 2010" by Arab Business and UAE Mega Projects.

**Al Hussein, H.R.H. Princess Haya bint**

H.R.H. Princess Haya bint al Hussein of Jordan is married to H.H. Amir Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates and the ruler of Dubai. Princess Haya is recognized 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. She chairs Dubai's International Humanitarian City which is now the world's largest operational center for the delivery of aid in emergencies. She was an ambassador for the World Food Programme 2005-2007, and then appointed a UN Messenger of Peace in July 2007 by Secretary-General Ban-Ki Moon. She was a founding member of former Secretary-General Kofi Annan's Global Humanitarian Forum based in Geneva, writes editorials and articles on hunger, nutrition and the UN Millennium Development Goals, and serves on the boards of many non-profit organizations.

**Al Qassimi, Sheikh Dr Sultan bin Mohammed [new]**

Sheikh Sultan is the ruler of the Emirate of Sharjah. He had the educational vision to start 'University City' which included the American University of Sharjah, the University of Sharjah, and other colleges. Since then, his vision has inspired neighbouring emirates and countries to emulate his endeavour of bringing world-class university education to the region. He is known for his philanthropic activities and has endowed Chairs for Arabic and Islamic studies in Western universities (e.g. Exeter University).

## Sub-Saharan Africa

**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 in aid to 25 countries around the world. The organization has also designed and developed the world's first and largest containerized mobile hospital, which has been deployed in Bosnia. It also runs 24 development projects in South Africa and Malawi. He was awarded South Africa's Order of the Beobab for distinguished service in April 2010.

## Asia

**Prenji, Azim [new]**

Prenji is an Indian business tycoon and philanthropist who is the chairman of Wipro Limited (a leader in the software industry). According to Forbes, he is currently the third wealthiest Indian as well as being the richest Indian Muslim. The Azim Premji Foundation supports programs that reach more than 2.5 million children. His recent \$2 billion donation to his foundation was the largest charitable contribution in the history of modern India. He has been named one of the 100 most influential people by Time Magazine in 2011.

**Qasmi, Maulana Badruddin Ajmal**

Maulana Badruddin Ajmal is a prominent businessman in India who runs the Ajmal Group of Companies, which sells attar perfume, oils and textiles. He is a proponent and member of various social service organizations and is also a scholar of Islam, having studied at the Darul Uloom Deoband. Qasmi is also a politician who founded the Assam United Democratic Front political party. He is noted for his contributions to charitable hospitals, orphanages, and educational institutions including a women's science college.

**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. Bagir has founded and lectured in many educational institutions, and his philanthropic contributions include work on community development. He has written extensively on Sufism.

**Edhi, Abdul Sattar**

Abdul Sattar Edhi is the founder of the 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 the less fortunate by providing a range of services including a 24-hour emergency service across the country through 300 'Edhi centers', which provide free burial of unclaimed dead bodies. He also funds free hospitals and dispensaries, rehabilitation for drug addicts, shelter for the destitute, orphans and handicapped persons, and national and international relief efforts.

**Rizvi, Prof. Dr Adib [new]**

He is one of the country's leading humanitarians, having established the largest free health organisation in Pakistan. He works as a doctor and an administrator at SIUT in Karachi, which was founded in 1971 as an 8-bedded unit.

## Europe

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### 🕌 UNITED KINGDOM 🕌

#### **Al Banna, Dr Hany**

Al Banna is the co-founder and president of Islamic Relief, the largest Western-based international Muslim relief and development NGO. Established in 1984, the organization provides assistance in over 30 countries worldwide. Queen Elizabeth honoured al Banna's work, giving him an OBE for his services to the community.

#### **Kazmi, Nadeem**

Nadeem Kazmi is the director for International Development of the Imam Al-Khoei Benevolent Foundation based in London. The foundation is notable for its humanitarian aid and for its community work in both the UK and the United States.

## North America

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### 🕌 UNITED STATES 🕌

#### **Cheema, Dr Tariq H.**

Dr Cheema is the founder of the World Congress of Muslim Philanthropists, a Chicago-based organization seeking to promote effective and accountable giving. The organization is the premier community of Muslim philanthropists in the world, with a number of high-level stakeholders. Cheema is a physician by profession and in 1998 he co-founded Doctors Worldwide, which provides medical relief in 18 countries. He was formerly the associate director of the Islamic Medical Association of North America. In early 2010 Dr Cheema announced a new global awareness initiative, 'Empowerment through Enlightenment', aimed at achieving the UN Millennium Development goal of promoting gender equality.

## South America

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### 🕌 BRAZIL 🕌

#### **Othman, Abdul-Baqi Sayed**

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

# 12 Million

The number of people in East Africa (Somalia, Ethiopia, Kenya, and neighboring countries) who are facing a severe food crisis due to the worst drought in 60 years, leading to the first UN-declared famine in 30 years.





## ❧ Social Issues ❧

These individuals address various social issues such as health, education, women's rights, the environment, human rights and conflict resolution.

### *Middle East & North Africa*

#### ❧ EGYPT ❧

##### **Abulmagd, H.E. Prof. Dr Kamal**

Abulmagd is currently the Vice President of the National Council for Human Rights in Egypt. He is an important intellectual in Egypt and the wider Arab World, and holds significant influence over media relations and public diplomacy in the Middle East. Shortly after September 11, 2001 Abulmagd was appointed the Commissioner Responsible for Dialogue between Civilizations by the Arab League. He is noted as one of the most influential 'new Islamist' thinkers.

#### ❧ 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. Ebadi lectures about the human rights situation in Iran and espouses a liberal view of Islam appreciated by many Muslim feminists.

#### ❧ PALESTINE ❧

##### **Abu Awwad, Khaled**

Khaled Abu Awwad is the General Manager of the Israeli-Palestinian Bereaved Families Forum and Chairman of Al-Tariq (The Palestinian Institution for Development and Democracy).

##### **Abu Elaish, Dr Izzeldin**

Dr Izzeldin Abu Elaish lost his three daughters during the Israeli bombardment of Gaza in 2009. His phone call to national Israeli TV pleading for help moments after the killing has become part of the public consciousness. He is a public health expert working in an Israeli hospital, and a Palestinian peace activist nominated for the 2009 Nobel Peace Prize. He is an outspoken advocate of a lasting Israeli-Palestinian peace.

##### **Abu Sarah, Aziz**

Aziz Abu Sarah is a Palestinian activist who is globally recognized for his work on peace and conflict resolution in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. He was formerly the director of International Relations for the Parents Circle - Families Forum, and co-hosted Radio All for Peace, a bilingual radio show on 107.2 FM in Jerusalem until 2008, when he relocated to the US where he is now the Director of Middle East Projects at George Mason University's Center for World Religions, Diplomacy, and Conflict Resolution. Abu Sarah is also a lecturer and writes for major news outlets about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and peace movements.

#### ❧ QATAR ❧

##### **Al Thani, H.E. Sheikha Aisha bint Faleh bint Nasser**

Sheikha Aisha Al Thani is the founder of the Doha Academy and board member of Reach Out to Asia, Qatar. She is also a member of the Qatar Supreme Education Council, the highest educational authority in Qatar. She is a modernist development thinker, who promotes a more pronounced and well-judged engagement with people of faith. Sheikha Aisha's perspective resonates with the more concerted efforts by humanitarian organizations to look at the networks of people of faith as a solution to practical development problems.

# \$103,275

The GDP per capita of Qatar, the highest in the world. Luxembourg is the only other nation that is over \$60k with per capita GDP of \$83k. Figures are in international dollars.

##### **Al Thani, H.E. Sheikha Al Mayassa bint Hamad**

Sheikha Al 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 the quality of both primary and secondary education, in addition to achieving some of the goals of UNESCO's Education For All (EFA) and the United Nations Millennium Development goals (MDGs).

SAUDI ARABIA

**Obaid, Thoraya Ahmed**

Obaid is the executive director of the United Nations Population Fund, the world's largest multi-lateral fund for population assistance. Obaid is the first Saudi Arabian to head a UN agency and is also the chair of the principle inter-agency organization for coordinating management matters within the UN. She has underlined religion and culture as important aspects for the agency's development work.

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. Al Turabi 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.

YEMEN

**Baobaid, Dr Mohammad**

Mohammed Baobaid is the founder of the Muslim Family Safety Project and was the second recipient of Every Day Hero Award of the Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children at the University of Western Ontario. Baobaid was the head of the department of psychology at the University of Sana'a and was well-known in his research on domestic violence and children in conflict with the law.

**Karman, Tawakul**

Karman was one of three women jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize 2011. She is a Yemeni journalist and activist who has regularly led protests against the government. Over the past 6 years, this 32 year old mother of three has campaigned for the release of political prisoners, and advocated freedom of expression and other human rights. These activities have caused her to be jailed several times.

*Sub-Saharan Africa*

BURKINA FASO

**Aboubakary, Maiga**

Aboubakary is the secretary general of the Burkina Faso Islamic Organization for Population and Development. His organization promotes family-planning in mosques around the country. The tremendous growth rate in Burkina Faso has put great strain on the economy there, and threatens to sharpen the already serious problem of poverty.

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'. HIV/AIDS is a serious problem in Burundi, affecting close to 20 percent of the urban population and near to 10 percent of the rural population.

COTE D'IVOIRE (IVORY COAST)

**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 on the development of the Muslim community, and the fair treatment of Muslims. He has been active at major international conferences trying to deal with the problem of Islamophobia.

MALAWI

**Chabulika, Sheikh Dinala**

Chabulika 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. Chabulika works on health issues, exploitation, and has built bridges with non-Muslims in Malawi. He has also fought against the forced teaching of religious texts to school children.

NIGER

**Mindaoudou, H.E. 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. She is one of the most senior-level women politicians in West Africa.

NIGERIA

**Ashafa, 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. Pastor Wuye and Imam Ashafa have gained a wide audience and mass interest in their particular story through speaking on the issue around the world.

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. Elmi 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.

#### **Osman, Hibaaq**

A Somali Muslim and women's rights activist, Hibaaq Osman is Special Representative to Africa for V-Day—a movement against violence against women. She is the founder of Karama, a regional movement working to end violence against women in the Arab World. She is also the founding CEO of the Arab Women's Fund and founder of the Center for the Strategic Initiatives of Women (CSIW).

## *Asia*

### 🕌 AFGHANISTAN 🕌

#### **Barakzai, Shukria**

Barakzai is the editor of Afghanistan's first and only newspaper targeted at women, *Aina-E Zan* (Women's Mirror). She is also a member of Afghanistan's parliament.

#### **Basher, Maria [new]**

She is Afghanistan's only female prosecutor general. In 2010 she handled 87 cases on behalf of victims of domestic abuse, including forced child marriages and is working on establishing precedents that will become the foundations of a just and equal society. In 2011, Ms Basher's work was given an International Woman of Courage award during a ceremony presided over by Michelle Obama and Hillary Clinton.

#### **Joya, Malalai [new]**

A well know activist, writer and a former politician from Afghanistan. She was a Parliamentarian in the National Assembly of Afghanistan, later to be dismissed for publicly condemning the Afghani parliament. She was the first ever to speak against the democratically elected Karzai administration and its western supporters, specifically the United States. Her actions have received international acclaim. She was listed in the 100 Times most influential people of 2010 as well as in the Guardian's top 100 women. She is renowned for her attempts to teach females how to read and write in the refugee camp where she resided during the Soviet Afghani war, later to be smuggled back to Afghanistan at the age of 16 to set up a secret school for girls.

#### **Sarabi, H.E. Dr Habiba**

Habiba Sarabi became the first female governor in Afghanistan in 2005. She is a haematologist by profession and encourages environmental reform. In 2008, she was honoured by Time Magazine for her help in establishing Afghanistan's first national park, Band-e Amir.

### 🕌 BANGLADESH 🕌

#### **Abed, Fazle Hasan**

Abed is the founder and chairperson of BRAC, one of the world's largest non-government development organizations. This organization is known internationally for its focus on poverty eradication and relief. He has been awarded for his services in tackling poverty and empowering the poor in Bangladesh.

#### **Hossain, Dr Hameeda**

Dr Hossain has published many books and articles relating to human rights and women's issues in Bangladesh, in Islam, and worldwide. She is a founding member of Ain o Salish Kendra, a legal aid and human rights organization.

#### **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. 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 Hussein Foundation, Jordan and UNESCO.

### 🕌 INDONESIA 🕌

#### **Amalee, Irfan**

Irfan Amalee created the Peace Generation Program that trains peace agents, develops peace education modules, and promotes books door-to-door. It has since grown into a community of over 15,000 young people who have set up their own training and book-retail businesses from Aceh to Sulawesi. Amalee is also the youngest member of Mizan Publishers, where he established *Pelangi Mizan*, a Muslim children's book publication. He was a recipient of the British Council's 2008 International Young Creative Entrepreneur Award.

#### **Muhammad, Husein**

Husein Muhammad is a commissioner of Indonesia's National Commission on Violence against Women. He is one of the founders of Fahmina Institute (in 1999), an NGO that advocates women's issues using an Islamic framework and reinterpretation of Islamic classical literature, tafsir and fiqh. Muhammad has also written many articles and books about gender and women's issues in Islam. Muhammad led an anti-trafficking media campaign, which included the distribution of 22,000 leaflets each week in mosques after Friday prayers, along with outreach to village health clinics. His scholarship highlights the Islamic perspective on victims' rights, the rights of women and children, and the immorality of human trafficking, while emphasizing that victims should not be criminalized and that communities have a responsibility to combat trafficking.

## 🕌 MALAYSIA 🕌

### **Anwar, Zaynah**

Anwar is the founder and former 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*, the country's two main newspapers, and has written a book about Islam in Malaysia. She also addressed prestigious overseas forums such as the World Economic Forum in Davos. She has delivered a keynote address titled 'Islam, Human Rights, and Activism' at Harvard University.

### **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, a 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.

## 🕌 NEPAL 🕌

### **Siddiqui, Muhammadi**

Mohammadi Siddiqui is a pioneer female Muslim politician, a social worker, and a human rights activist. She established the Fatima Foundation in 2003 to ensure Muslim women's rights on two related fronts: the personal daily struggle of women against discrimination, and the social and legal practices that influence women's independence and access to basic rights. The foundation organizes Muslim women's groups and works with religious scholars and women leaders to educate women and raise awareness of their rights in order to advocate for the practice of 'actual' Islamic law and ensure social justice for women. The foundation also publishes books and translations of the Qur'an in the local language; it also provides services to the victims of domestic violence.

## 🕌 PAKISTAN 🕌

### **Bibi, Mukhtaran [new]**

After she was sexually assaulted in a much-publicized case, Mukhtaran Bibi, also known as Mukhtar Mai, founded the Mukhtaran Mai Women's Welfare Organization, which aims to educate young girls about women's rights and honour killings. Bibi's memoir is a bestseller, and she has been the subject of a documentary about sexual violence. Her high-profile case has brought a focus in the media on the issue of women's rights. Her influence is very strong in Europe and North America where her cause was popularized, and also in Pakistan itself where the case became a nationally publicized event.

## 🕌 PHILIPPINES 🕌

### **Abubakar, Ismael**

Abubakar is the former speaker of the Autonomous Region in 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 pre-

dominantly Muslim Sama tribe, which garners him a significant amount of respect in dealing with the Muslim militants.

### **Busran Lao, Yasmin**

Yasmin Busran Lao is a prominent women's activist and peace advocate who is currently running as a senatorial candidate with the Liberal Party for the May 2010 election. The US government conferred the Ninoy Aquino Public Service Award on Busran Lao for her work in uplifting the plight of the marginalized. She has co-founded various women's rights and development organizations.

### **Rasul, Santanina Tillah**

The most recent Filipina Muslim woman elected to the Philippine Senate, former Senator Santanina Tillah Rasul is noted for her work toward gender equality, improved literacy, and Muslim affairs in the Philippines. She has exercised her influence in the senate to open up the Philippine Military Academy to women, among other initiatives aimed at women's rights.

### **Rasul-Bernardo, Amina**

Rasul-Bernardo is a distinguished peace and human rights advocate in Asia. She is the director of the Philippine Council on Islam and Democracy (PCID). She is the recipient of the Muslim Democrat of the Year Award from the Center for the Study of Islam and Democracy for her long-term advocacy for democracy and peace in the Muslim Mindanao region. Rasul-Bernardo is also a founding member of a microfinancing organization aimed at Muslim and indigenous women—the Muslim Professional and Business Women's Association of the Philippines. As a founding member of the Magbassa Kita Foundation, she was responsible for raising \$2 million to fund the foundation's program for literacy in the Muslim and indigenous communities.

## 🕌 SRI LANKA 🕌

### **Ismail, Jezima**

The founder of the Muslim Women's Research and Action Forum (MWRAF), and the President of the Sri Lanka Muslim Women's Conference (SLMWC) Jezima Ismail has been an educator for over three decades. She serves on various international committees on women's rights and is the recipient of various awards in recognition of her work.

### **Jensila, Majeed [new]**

Jensila is a powerful force in Sri Lanka, working with young people on a number of issues involving minority women. These include women's rights, peace building, relief work, and mine risk education. Jensila is head of the Community Trust Fund, which is also engaged in activities benefiting minority women and is specifically focused on relationships between Tamils and Muslims.

### **Marsoof, Justice Saleem**

Justice Marsoof is a judge of the Supreme Court of Sri Lanka and former president of the Court of Appeals. He is an award-winning lecturer on law and development of legal studies and a prolific author with special interest in law reform in Sri Lanka.

## THAILAND

**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 Sabur served as coordinator of the Asian Cultural Forum on Development (ACFOD). He has edited a number of publications on peace and dialogue in South-east 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

### AUSTRIA

**Dirie, Waris**

Dirie is a Somali-Austrian women's rights activist and former international supermodel. She was appointed UNFPA Goodwill Ambassador for the Elimination of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), and founded several organizations, including the Waris Dirie Foundation, to raise awareness about FGM. Dirie underwent FGM as a child and seeks to build awareness around the fact that Islam does not require the practice. She is the author of several bestselling books.

### BELGIUM

**Ozdemir, Mahinur [new]**

Ozdemir is a young politician and the first hijab-wearing Member of Parliament of any European country. She was sworn in to the Belgian parliament, while wearing a headscarf. The event garnered mass interest in Turkey, where in 1999 Merve Kavakçı was denied the right to take her oath of office because of her hijab. Ozdemir is of Turkish origin and is a member of the Francophone Christian Democrat party.

### BOSNIA

**Mahmutcehajic, H.E. Prof. Dr Rusmir**

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

## ITALY

**Qaddorah, Jamal**

Qaddorah is a representative of Italy's largest trade union CGIL. In 2010, he helped to organize the 'A Day Without Us' immigrant rally across Italy. The strike drew well over 20,000 participants and helped to highlight the important role that immigrants play in the Italian economy. A significant portion of immigrants come to Italy from countries such as Nigeria, Morocco, and Bangladesh and make up about 8 percent of the labour force there.

### TURKEY

**Gül, Hayrünnisa**

Hayrünnisa Gül is the wife of President Abdullah Gül and is the first First Lady of Turkey to wear the hijab, causing controversy and consternation among some secularist citizens and politicians. In the early 1990s, she appealed to the European Court of Human Rights to overturn Turkey's hijab ban. She is the most visible headscarf-wearing person in Turkey and has great influence, both in publicizing the cause of the hijab and also as a figure of hostility for those people fearful of the growing role of the hijab in Turkish society and politics.

### UNITED KINGDOM

**Abdul Bari, Dr Muhammad**

Dr Abdul Bari is the Chairman of the East London Mosque and was the secretary general of the Muslim Council of Britain, the largest Islamic umbrella organization in the United Kingdom. The MCB has over 500 national, regional and local affiliate organisations and strives to promote a full and participatory role for Muslims in public life.

**Azmi, Dr Waqar**

Dr Waqar Azmi founded the British Federation of Racial Equality Councils and is the former chief diversity adviser at the Cabinet Office and is currently an EU Ambassador of Intercultural Dialogue. In 2001 he became the youngest person from an ethnic minority to have a senior executive role in the private sector, as chairman of Waterhouse Consulting Group. In 2002 Azmi received an OBE, Officer of the Order of the British Empire, for his work.

**Khalid, Fazlun**

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

**Qureshi, Prof. Khawar**

Khawar Qureshi QC is one of the world's leading experts on public international law. He is the youngest advocate ever to have appeared before the International Court of Justice in 1993 for Bosnia's genocide case against Yugoslavia. As a QC, a barrister appointed as counsel to the British Crown, Qureshi was one of four

specially selected counsellors to appear in hearings concerning alleged international terrorists. He was a legal adviser to the Bosnian government during the Dayton Peace Talks and remains the vice chairman of the International Committee of the Bar Council of England and Wales.

## North America

### 🌳 CANADA 🌳

#### **Kutty, Faisal**

A leading Canadian lawyer, Faisal Kutty is outspoken on issues of human rights, Islamic thought and anti-terror legislation. He is a founding member of the Canadian Muslim Civil Liberties Association and has written numerous academic articles, papers, reviews and essays on topics ranging from national security to religion and law.

### 🌳 UNITED STATES 🌳

#### **Abdur-Rauf, Feisal**

Imam Feisal Abdur-Rauf is the founder of the 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*. He has been an associate professor of Islamic studies at St. Joseph's College in Brooklyn since spring 2009.

#### **Bazian, Dr Hatem [new]**

Bazian is a Palestinian-American academic at the University of California, Berkeley, a Senior Lecturer in the Departments of Near Eastern and Ethnic Studies and an adjunct professor of law at Boalt Hall School of Law. In addition, he is a visiting professor in Religious Studies at Saint Mary's College of California and adviser to the Religion, Politics and Globalization Center at UC Berkeley and Zaytuna Institute. He played a significant role in many human and civil rights movements, nationally and internationally, including: the defence of affirmative action in California; the Americans with Disabilities Act; the anti-apartheid and anti-globalization movements; and Central American solidarity. He has appeared in many TV and Radio interviews, offered frequent commentary on current affairs and is a regular consultant for the San Francisco Chronicle on stories relating to Palestine, the Arab World, Islam, Muslims and world politics. He co-hosted *Islam Today*, a KPFA weekly radio magazine show.

#### **Al-Hibri, Dr Azizah**

Chairperson of Karamah Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights, Dr al-Hibri Esq. leads a dynamic organization dedicated to the empowerment of Muslim women by focusing on the egalitarian

message of gender-equity in the Qur'an. Al-Hibri is also a professor of law at the T.C. Williams School of Law, University of Richmond. She was appointed by President Obama as a member of the Constitution Project's Liberty and Security Committee.

#### **Hooper, Ibrahim [new]**

He is the National Communications Director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations, America's largest Muslim civil liberties advocacy organisation. A convert to Islam, he is also used as a spokesperson for the Washington D.C.-based organisation and often appears on both national and international TV programs to debate controversial issues as well as provide an Islamic perspective on current issues and events.

#### **Idriss, Shamil**

Shamil Idriss is the CEO of Soliya, a non-profit organization which uses the latest technology to build connections between young people and communities across the globe. He was formerly appointed deputy director of the Alliance of Civilizations by UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and then took charge as executive director of the Alliance of Civilizations Media Fund, which merged with Soliya in 2009. 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.

#### **Kavakçi, Prof. Dr Merve**

Merve Kavakçi 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. Kavakçi is also a Hafiza of the Qur'an.

#### **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 and is the first hijab-wearing Muslim woman to hold a White House position. Mogahed has also held high positions in the US-Muslim Engagement Project and is co-author of the book *Who Speaks for Islam? What a Billion Muslims Really Think*.

#### **Mujahid, Abdul Malik [new]**

As President of the multimedia company Sound Vision he has created a critical educational resource for Muslims. His development of the Radio Islam nightly talk show in Chicago is not only a source of support for Muslims, but an important educational link to non-Muslims in the greater Chicago area. During his tenure as Chair of the Council of Islamic Organizations of Greater Chicago and now in his role as Chair of the Parliament of the World's Religions, Mujahid speaks with eloquence not only about the destructiveness of Islamophobia but also of the need for all people to come together in a spirit of justice and peace.

## Business

These entrepreneurs head and direct key organisations in the business world pushing innovation and financial development forward.

### *Middle East & North Africa*

#### BAHRAIN

##### **Al Zayani, Afnan**

Afnan al Zayani is the CEO of the multi-million dollar company Al Zayani Commercial Services (AZCS). She is recognized internationally as one of the most powerful businesswomen of this era. She is responsible for the passing of personal status laws in Bahrain that ensure the protection of Muslim women's rights in divorce and custody proceedings, something she oversaw during her leadership of the Bahrain Businesswomen's Society (BBS). Subsequently al Zayani led the Middle East and North Africa Businesswomen's Network and in 2010 she received the Leadership in Public Life Award from Vital Voices, a women's empowerment organization. She was listed among the most powerful women by Forbes and Arabian Business Magazine.

#### IRAN

##### **Ansari, Anousheh**

Anousheh Ansari is a prominent Iranian businesswoman who is chairman, CEO, and co-founder of Prodea Systems, a private US-based company which offers technological solutions for businesses. She also co-sponsored the 'Ansari X Prize' with other members of the Ansari family which awarded \$10 million to the first NGO that launched a reusable manned spacecraft, in 2004. However she garners most of her influence for being the first privately-funded woman, and the first Iranian, to explore space in 2006. She was lauded for leading a new era that financially advances scientific development while extending participation in space exploration to women and 'space tourists.'

#### JORDAN

##### **Abu-Ghazaleh, Talal [new]**

Abu-Ghazaleh is the chairman and founder of the Talal Abu Ghazaleh Organization. He is accredited for introducing the concept of Intellectual Property into the Arab World. Abu-Ghazaleh has been selected as deputy chairman of the UN Global Compact, as well as being appointed by the UN as Chair of UN Global Alliance for ICT and Development. He is the only person listed in

the IP Hall of Fame in Chicago, USA, who is not from one of the G8 countries.

#### KUWAIT

##### **Al Bahar, Sheikha [new]**

Sheikha Al Bahar is the deputy CEO of the National Bank of Kuwait and is responsible for \$16bn. She is in charge of loans, investment banking, marketing and treasury. Al Bahar is also the chairperson of Al Watany Bank of Egypt and is the vice-chair at NBK Capital, a subsidiary of National Bank of Kuwait. She attended business schools such as Harvard Business School, California University, Stanford University and Duke University.

##### **Al Ghunaim, Maha [new]**

Al Ghunaim is an Arab Kuwaiti specializing in banking and finance. In 1998, she founded Global Investment House, one of the most renowned companies in the Arab World. She is well-known for taking the company international and into the London Stock Exchange in 2008 making it the first Kuwaiti company to be listed on the exchange. The firm is also listed on the Kuwait, Dubai and Bahrain bourses.

#### MOROCCO

##### **Bouhia, Hynd [new]**

A Moroccan-born, Harvard PhD holder, Bouhia was a helping hand in her country's bourse as well as being the Prime Minister's advisor on economic issues in 2004. Bouhia was in the forefront of securing foreign investment and attracted \$700m US grant to aid private enterprises. She was ranked as one of the most influential women in the world by Forbes Magazine as well as Arabian Business. Bouhia was a Special Assistant to the Vice President for Middle East and North Africa, specifically in economic, technical and diplomatic issues.

#### SAUDI ARABIA

##### **Bin Laden, Bakr**

Bakr bin Laden, half-brother of the deceased 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

Bakr bin Laden an increasingly influential power broker in Saudi business capital.

#### **Al Faisal, H.R.H. Prince Mohammed**

Prince Mohammed al Faisal has been groundbreaking in the area of Islamic finance, setting up the first modern bank run in compliance with the rules of sharia. The Faisal Islamic Bank of Egypt was set up in Cairo in 1977, and aimed to be a model of Islamic banking for future initiatives. The bank was set up in Egypt because at the time Saudi Arabia rejected the idea that interest went against Islamic teachings; Islamic banking is founded on the premise of lending without interest. Prince al Faisal remains the chairman of the board of directors of the bank

#### **Olayan, Lubna**

Lubna Olayan is internationally recognized as Saudi Arabia's top businesswoman. As a leading investor in the Saudi economy, chief executive officer of the Olayan Financing Company, and a board member for organizations such as Saudi Hollandi Bank, Rolls Royce and Citigroup, among others, she is one of the most influential businesswomen in the world.

#### **Al Saud, H.R.H. Prince Al Waleed bin Talal bin Abdul Aziz**

Prince al Waleed bin Talal is an entrepreneur and investor who has built up a fortune through real estate and the stock market. His philanthropic clout comes from his position among the richest people in the world. Prince al Waleed contributed \$20 million to found the Center for Christian-Muslim Understanding at Georgetown University, which remains one of the key institutions globally working on Christian-Muslim relations. As of March 2011, his net worth is estimated at US\$19.6 billion, according to Forbes, making him the 26th richest person in the world on their list published in March 2011. He has been nicknamed by Time magazine as the Arabian Warren Buffett

### 🕌 SUDAN 🕌

#### **Ibrahim, Dr Mohamed 'Mo'**

Mohamed Ibrahim—more commonly known as Mo Ibrahim—is a Sudanese-born entrepreneur, currently based in the UK. He became successful as a businessman in the telecommunications industry, founding one of Africa's biggest cellular phone companies, Celtel. He has recently come to prominence for his idea of the Ibrahim Prize for Achievement in African Leadership—which awards the recipient a \$5 million initial payment, plus \$200,000 a year for life. The Prize was conceived as a way to curb corruption by African leaders, who often resort to corruption to obtain financial security when they leave office, and to promote good governance. The prize is believed to be the world's largest, surpassing the \$1.3 million Nobel Peace Prize.

### 🕌 SYRIA 🕌

#### **Alchaar, Dr Mohammed Nedal**

Alchaar is the secretary general of the Accounting and Auditing Organization 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.

### 🕌 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 🕌

#### **Al Abbar, Mohammed Ben Ali**

Mohammed Ben Ali al Abbar is a member of the Executive Board of the Government of Dubai and the director of the Department of Economic Development. Under his leadership Dubai has been one of the fastest-growing economies in the world. He has been successful in increasing the financial regulations requiring transparency; making Dubai a more attractive place to invest and do business in. He is one of the main assistants of His Highness Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid al Maktoum, Vice President and Prime Minister of the United Arab Emirates, and ruler of Dubai and is the Chairman of Emaar, one of the world's largest real estate companies

#### **Al Jaber, Fatima [new]**

Al Jaber is an Emirati business woman and chief operating officer of the Al Jaber Group. She supervises more than 50,000 employees and manages around \$4.9 billion in assets. She speaks on a regular basis in economic-oriented conferences. Al Jaber was the first ever Emirati woman to be elected to the board of directors at the Abu Dhabi Chamber of Commerce in December 2009. She has several awards and in 2008 was "Businesswoman of the Year" at the Arabian Business Achievement Awards.

#### **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 in the 'Power 100: The World's Most Influential Arabs' in 2009.

## *Sub-Saharan Africa*

### 🕌 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 important because South Africa's booming economy is paradoxically leaving behind much of the population; this is because of both the HIV/AIDS situation and also the fact that South Africa has one of the



highest unemployment rates in the world due to mass migration caused by the unstable situation in Zimbabwe.

## *Asia*

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### 🌿 INDONESIA 🌿

#### **Indrawati, Sri Mulyani**

Sri Mulyani Indrawati ranks among the most powerful women in the world. She is one of the few Indonesian policymakers with an international profile. She was recently reappointed Finance Minister in 2009. Her policy of increasing tax collection to boost state revenues has earned her many enemies among the business elite who are now under pressure to pay up. During her time as Finance Minister, Southeast Asia's largest economy has become a member of the group of 20 leading economies and is one of the fastest-growing economies in the region, partly thanks to the combination of sound economic policies and a more stable political situation. She was appointed Managing Director of the World Bank in 2010.

## *Europe*

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### 🌿 TURKEY 🌿

#### **Sabancı, Güler [new]**

Sabancı is a renowned award winning Turkish business woman, who is the chairperson of a \$25 billion industrial and financial corporation, the second biggest in Turkey. Under her leadership, earnings of the corporation have soared and its operations have spread to 12 countries. She has been ranked by Wall Street Journal, Forbes Magazine and Financial Times as one of the most prominent business woman in the world.

## *North America*

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### 🌿 UNITED STATES 🌿

#### **El Erian, Dr Mohamed**

El Erian is the CEO and co-CIO of PIMCO, a global investment management firm and one of the world's largest bond investors with approximately US\$1.2 trillion of assets under management at the end of 2010. His book, *When Markets Collide*, was a New York Times and Wall Street Journal bestseller, and was named a book of the year by The Economist. He was named to Foreign Policy's list of "Top 100 Global Thinkers" for 2009 and 2010.



# Science & Technology

These are the main figures from the world of science and technology.

## Middle East & North Africa

### EGYPT

#### El Naggar, Zaghoul

El Naggar is an Egyptian geologist and scholar who writes and speaks on science and the Qur'an. He is a fellow of the Islamic Academy of Sciences, and is well-respected by the global scientific community for his work on geology. He has published close to 200 academic scholarly articles and scientific studies. He also works for the Arab Development Institute.

#### Salehi, Dr Ali Akbar

Dr Ali Akbar Salehi was appointed as head of the Atomic Energy Organization in Iran in July 2009, after the resignation of Gholam Reza Aghazadeh. Salehi is an academic and politician who has been involved in developing Iran's nuclear energy program since before the Islamic revolution in 1979. He transitioned to leading the Atomic Energy Organization after serving as a permanent representative of Iran with the International Atomic Energy Agency.

## Asia

### INDIA

#### Kalam, H.E. Dr A.P.J. Abdul

An engineer by profession, Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam is a former president of India. Before becoming president, Kalam was the Scientific Adviser to the Defence Minister and Secretary of India's Defence Research and Development Organization from 1992 to 1999, during which he led the weaponization of strategic missile systems and nuclear testing in collaboration with the Department of Atomic Energy. This moved India from being a state with nuclear technology to a state with nuclear weapons. Kalam is also author of *India 2020*, which presents his vision of an Indian superpower by the year 2020.

### INDONESIA

#### Mumpuni, Tri

Tri Mumpuni has spent 14 years on improving rural communities in Indonesia through rural electrification initiatives based on developments with micro-hydro electric power plants. She and her husband have promoted a system that combines heat and power as a basis for more sustainable sources of electricity. Her influential work, which offers economic incentives for implementation of the micro-hydro system, has been applied in 65 villages across Indonesia and a village in the Philippines.

### MALAYSIA

#### Shukor, Dr Sheikh Muszaphar

Dr Shukor, an orthopaedic surgeon by profession, became the first Malaysian in space when he was selected as one of two astronauts to be trained at Star City in Russia and subsequently selected to be the astronaut to further Malaysia's Angkasawan program, which sent him to the International Space Station in 2007. He successfully conducted scientific experiments while in space. His launch also prompted the Malaysian National Fatwa Council to issue specific rulings regarding observance of religious obligations (praying and fasting) while in space. In 2010 Shukor was appointed as one of the ambassadors of Malaysia's nationwide reading campaign to encourage literacy among children.

### PAKISTAN

#### Khan, Dr Abdul Qadeer

Dr Abdul Qadeer Khan is the scientist who brought nuclear technology and nuclear weapons technology in the 1970s to Pakistan which was the first—and remains the only—Muslim country to have nuclear weapons. This 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 in Pakistan through building educational institutions for metallurgical engineering.

#### Rahman, Atta-ur

Atta-Ur Rahman is the coordinator general of the OIC's COM-STECH—the Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation for the promotion and cooperation of science and technology activities among the OIC member states. Rahman is also former Pakistani Federal Minister for Science and Technology, chairman of the Higher Education Commission and presi-

dent of the Pakistan Academy of Sciences. In 1999 he became the first Muslim scientist to win the UNESCO Science Prize.

#### 🌿 THAILAND 🌿

##### **Dahlan, Prof. Dr Winai**

Prof. Dr Winai Dahlan is the director of the Halal Science Center (HASCI) in Thailand, named the Best Innovation in the Halal Industry by Malaysia's Halal Journal. HASCI promotes halal manufacturing and service through exhibitions and regional cooperation with Halal Centres in Indonesia and Malaysia. Dr Winai Dahlan is involved in scientific training and has written more than 30 original research articles published internationally and locally. He has also produced more than 2000 scientific and nutritional articles; writing weekly in 3 magazines since 1989.

## Europe

#### 🌿 FINLAND 🌿

##### **El Fatatry, Mohamed**

Mohamed el Fatatry, a Finland-based Egyptian entrepreneur, is chairman and CEO of a social networking website for Muslims, Muxlim.com. 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. Muxlim.com is also the recipient of Finland's 2010 yearly Internationalization Award. The website boasts over 10 million visitors per month from over 190 countries.

#### 🌿 FRANCE 🌿

##### **Guiderdoni, Dr Bruno Abd al Haqq**

Dr Guiderdoni is an expert on Islam in France, and professionally serves as the director of the Observatory of Lyon. He has written extensively on galaxy formation and evolution, Islamic theology and mysticism.

#### 🌿 TURKEY 🌿

##### **Oktar, Adnan**

Read bio on page 90 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

#### 🌿 UNITED KINGDOM 🌿

##### **Al-Hassani, Dr Salim**

Dr Salim Al-Hassani is a former professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, and the celebrated author of 1001 Inventions: Muslim Heritage in Our World—a best-selling account of scientific and technological developments in Islamic history. Dr Al-Hassani also serves as the chairman and founder of the Foundation for Science, Technology and Civilisation which partners with the Abdul Latif

Jameel Foundation, a British charity, which showcased the '1001 Inventions Global Touring Exhibition' across the UK, the United States, and Turkey in 2010.

## North America

#### 🌿 CANADA 🌿

##### **Doueiri, Dany**

Doueiri is the Arabic language program coordinator at California State University San 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.

#### 🌿 UNITED STATES 🌿

##### **Amanat, Omar**

Omar Amanat is an entrepreneur, and successful businessman. He founded Tradescape Corporation before its sale to E\*Trade in 2002 for \$280 million. Amanat is the founder of Summit Entertainment, a production and distribution studio in Hollywood worth \$1 billion that created the popular sitcom 'Aliens in America'. The Wall Street Journal named Amanat one of the 'Top Ten Most Influential Technologists'.

##### **Qazi, Dr Mahmood Ahmad**

Dr Qazi is a renaissance man of sorts, having founded the Chicago-based Kazi Publications and Water-Hydrogen Energy Enterprises Limited (WHEEL, LLC). He has authored various Islamic books, is a successful chemical engineer, in addition to being imam to various communities in Pennsylvania, including the state correctional institutions. He is currently developing green hydrogen-fuel energy solutions.

##### **Zewail, Dr Ahmed**

Dr 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 serves on Obama's Presidential Council of Advisors on Science and Technology. In January 2010 Dr Zewail was appointed one of the first US science envoys to the Muslim World. The group of scholars visited Muslim countries from North Africa to Southeast Asia to find opportunities to develop the fields of science and technology in the Muslim World.

## Arts & Culture

These are artists and cultural ambassadors whose work has become part of people's daily lives.

### Middle East & North Africa

#### ALGERIA

##### Behiri, Muhammad Ahmad

Muhammad Behiri is a prominent calligrapher recognized the world over for his skills. He studied at the Mimar Sinan University of Fine Arts in Turkey, where he received his *ijaza* (certification) in *khat* (script). He worked at the Institute of Traditional Islamic Art & Architecture in Amman, Jordan.

#### EGYPT

##### Abo Auf, Dr Ezzat

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

##### Al Aswany, Alaa

Alaa Al Aswany is considered to be one of Egypt's best-selling novelists and a leading figure in current political reform movements in Egypt. A dentist by profession, Al Aswany came to prominence for his 2002 novel, 'Imarat Ya'qubian (The Yacoubian Building) which has since been translated into over 23 different languages. His second best-selling novel, 'Chicago,' was published in 2007. He was a founding member of the political movement for change: Kefaya.

##### Badreya, Sayed [new]

Badreya is an Egyptian born actor who played significant roles in some Hollywood movies. His production company "Zoom in Focus" emerged on the grounds of seeking to show the world the Arabic-American story. Much of his efforts with this regard have been publicized in prominent news networks, such as The New York Times, BBC, ABC and Fox News.

#### IRAN

##### Nazeri, Shahram

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

#### JORDAN

##### Al Baghdadi, Abbas Shakir al Fattal

Abbas al Baghdadi is one of the world's foremost exponents of Islamic calligraphy. He was born in 1951 in Baghdad and has had a distinguished 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 majesty of his works.



##### Al Meheid, Minwer

Minwer al Meheid is the director of the College of Traditional Arts and Sciences at Balqa University in Amman, Jordan, which trains students in traditional arts. The College's influence has started to show as Muslims the world-over have started commissioning work from its craftsmen. Al Meheid is known for leading the recreation of the famous Minbar of Salahuddin from old photographs. In 2010 he was appointed as the director of the Royal Aal al Bayt Institute for Islamic Thought.

#### LEBANON

##### Assaf, Roger

Roger Assaf is a convert to Shi'ism. He is a prominent 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 which provides underprivileged individuals with a forum for self-expression through drama.

🌸 SYRIA 🌸

**Taha, Uthman**

Read bio on page 90 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.

## Sub-Saharan 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 is combined with influences from Europe and the Americas. In 1977 Keita received a National Order Award from Guianese President Sékou Touré. His music is very popular in the Francophone world, and more broadly in Europe. Keita's latest album, *La Différence*, was awarded Best World Music 2010 by the Victoires de la Musique.

🌸 SENEGAL 🌸

**N'dour, Youssou**

Youssou N'dour is a world famous Senegalese composer, singer, percussionist and UNICEF Good-will 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 and is building his own television and radio stations to promote social issues and give Senegalese people better access to home grown arts. His latest campaign was the 2009 song release of 'Wake Up (It's Africa Calling)' which called for open source health applications to be brought to Africa.

🌸 SOUTH AFRICA 🌸

**Bhikha, Zain**

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

## Asia

🌸 AZERBAIJAN 🌸

**Qasimov, Alim**

Alim Qasimov is an Azerbaijani musician and one of the most recognized singers of Islamic-folk music in the world. In 1999, he was awarded the prestigious International IMC-UNESCO Music Prize. Qasimov has recorded nine albums, and performed in many con-

certs around the world. According to The New York Times, "Alim Qasimov is simply one of the greatest singers alive."

🌸 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.

**Noor Deen, Haji (Mi Guang Jiang)**

Haji Noor Deen is a globally-recognized Chinese master and lecturer in 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. He currently lectures on Arabic calligraphy at the Islamic College in Zhen Zhou, China and the Zaytuna Institute in California.

🌸 INDIA 🌸

**Khan, Irfan [new]**

Khan is an Indian award-winning actor who has performed in internationally acclaimed movies such as 'Slumdog Millionaire'. He became known to the public after his participation in the movie 'The Warrior' in 2001. Some of his awards include: The Filmfare Best Villain Award, The Filmfare Best Supporting Actor Award and Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Cast in a Motion Picture along with the movie's cast for Slumdog Millionaire.

**Khan, Shahrukh**

Named by Newsweek as one of the "50 most powerful people in 2008", Shahrukh Khan is the pre-eminent Indian Bollywood star, film producer and television host. Khan is the founder and owner of two production companies, Dreamz Unlimited and Red Chillies Entertainment. He campaigns for better relations between India's Muslim and Hindu communities. His 2010 movie 'My Name is Khan' was internationally acclaimed for its pertinent commentary on the relationship between Islam and the West after 9/11.

**Rahman, Allah Rakha (A.R.)**

Rahman is a prolific composer, record producer, and musician for the Indian film industry. He is the first Indian to receive a Golden Globe Award and two Academy Awards for his soundtrack of 'Slumdog Millionaire'; for which he also received two Grammy awards. He was named "CNN-IBN Indian of the Year" for 2009. In 2004, Rahman was appointed the "Global Ambassador of The Stop TB Partnership", a World Health Organization project.

## 🌸 INDONESIA 🌸

### Rosa, Helvy Tiana

Helvy Tiana Rosa is a prominent Indonesian writer and lecturer in 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, both at home and abroad. She also helped found the “Pen Circle Forum” (FLP) in 1997 with the goal of encouraging young writers.

## 🌸 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 received numerous awards in Malaysia.

## 🌸 PAKISTAN 🌸

### Jamshed, Junaid

A former pop icon, Junaid Jamshed left his career as a recording artist with the group ‘Vital Signs’ to join the ranks of Pakistan’s highly respected Qur’an reciters and nasheed singers. The departure from pop music was associated with his participation in the Tablighi Jamaat organization starting in 2004. He has since released best-selling albums of Islamic songs. Muslim Charity has achieved a great deal under his leadership and expanded its operations to 16 countries.

### Parveen, Abida

Abida Parveen is an internationally-acclaimed vocalist, often referred to as the ‘Queen of Sufi mystic singing’. She is the only woman to reach this level of influence in devotional music; specializing in traditional ghazals, often performing to stadium-size audiences across South Asia and globally.

### Quadri, Muhammad Owais Raza [new]

With millions of followers, Quadri is considered a legend in the field of Naat khawan (reciter of naats). He is known for his passionate performances as well as his beautiful voice. A devout Muslim, he is particularly vocal on the subject of his love for the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

## Europe

## 🌸 FRANCE 🌸

### Deghati, Reza

Reza Deghati, more commonly known simply as Reza, is an internationally acclaimed photojournalist who has reported from all over the world for National Geographic, Vanity Fair, the New

York Times and other reputable publications. He is also the founder of Aina; a non-profit humanitarian organization dedicated to civil society development through education, information, and communication initiatives. Deghati was the 2009 Recipient of the Lucie Award from the Lucie Foundation in New York.

### Taghmaoui, Saïd [new]

An award winning French actor and screenwriter of Moroccan origin; He was nominated for a César Award in 1996 (Most Promising Actor). Speaking five languages helped pave the way for him to work internationally; he made films in Italy, Germany, Morocco and the United States.

## 🌸 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. His latest novel is *Hourglass* (2010).

### 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. Starting from 27 October she has been presenting an Islam-focused art & science program in Amsterdam.

## 🌸 SWEDEN 🌸

### Zain, Maher [new]

A Swedish R&B singer, songwriter and music producer of Lebanese origin, Maher Zain sings mainly in English. He also occasionally sings in French, Arabic, Urdu, Turkish and Malay, among others. In January 2009, Maher Zain signed up and began working on an album with Awakening Records. Maher’s debut album “Thank You Allah” reached the number 1 spot on Amazon.com World Music charts and number 9 on the R&B charts. He has 2 million fans on Facebook. In January 2010, Maher Zain won the best song for 2009 for ‘Ya Nabi Salam Alayka’.

## 🌸 TURKEY 🌸

### Çelebi, Hasan

Master Hasan Çelebi is an eminent Turkish calligrapher who is hailed for his classical Ottoman calligraphy style. His exhibitions have been featured globally and he is celebrated for his restoration of calligraphic panels in mosques around the world—from the Masjid al Nabawi in Medina to the Blue Mosque in Istanbul.

### **Yalçın, Rabia**

Rabia Yalçın 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 Yalçın Haute Couture, Yalçın has a strong presence in the European fashion scene.

### 🕌 UNITED KINGDOM 🕌

#### **Abdalla, Khalid**

Khalid Abdallah is a British actor acclaimed for his performances in the award-winning film 'United 93' and the film adaptation of 'The Kite Runner' in which he played the lead role. He is an increasingly influential Muslim actor, most recently starring in the Universal Pictures production, 'Green Zone' (2010).

#### **Islam, Yusuf**

Formerly known as Cat Stevens, Yusuf Islam is a globally influential British musician and singer-songwriter. In 1977, he converted to Islam and left the music industry for educational and philanthropic causes. His international fame and high-regard has probably made him the single most influential figure in the field of arts and culture in the Muslim World. He made a gradual return to music over the past five years with his latest albums; 'An Other Cup' and 'Roadsinger'. Islam is a vocal opponent of terrorism and extremism and in 2004 was recognized with the "Man of Peace" award by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureates Committee.

#### **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 became 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—about being a Muslim in today's world. He is also known for his extensive involvement in charity work. His songs enjoy a broad appeal with all age groups in many parts of the Muslim World and in Europe and North America.

## *North America*

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### 🕌 CANADA 🕌

#### **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. The series ran for 4 seasons and may be adopted by FOX as a series in the US. Nawaz owns a company called FUNDAMENTALIST FILMS, which produces films about Muslims living in North America.

#### **Wharnsby, Dawud**

A Canadian singer-songwriter, poet, performer, educator and television personality, Dawud Wharnsby is best known for his pioneering efforts in the musical/poetic genre of English Language nasheed and spoken word.

### 🕌 UNITED STATES 🕌

#### **Mehdi, Anisa**

Currently a Fulbright Scholar in Amman, Jordan, Anisa Mehdi is an Emmy Award-winning journalist and filmmaker who is noted for her National Geographic documentary 'Inside Mecca.' Mehdi's work has been featured on major media outlets. She is the founding president of Whetstone Productions, and continues to work in documentary film-making in the Middle East, while focusing on religion and the arts.

#### **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 United States Postal Service and in 2002, he was featured in the PBS documentary 'Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet'.

## *South America*

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### 🕌 GUYANA 🕌

#### **Shah, Ryhaan**

Ryhaan Shah is considered to be 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.



# Qur'an Reciters

The recitation of the Qur'an is a special art that is valued by Muslim communities across the world. The word al-Qur'an literally means 'the recitation' referring to its origins as an oral text.

## Middle East & North Africa

### EGYPT

#### Tiblawi, Sheikh Mohammad

Tiblawi is the deputy of The Association of Qur'an Reciters and the main reciter of Al Azhar University. He gained popularity in the Middle East after studying at Al Azhar and reciting the Qur'an on Egyptian television in 1956. He is widely recognized as a leading reciter of the Qur'an.

### KUWAIT

#### Al Afasy, Sheikh Mishary bin Rashid

Al Afasy is an imam at Masjid al Kabir in Kuwait, and is also a singer of Arabic language nasheed. He has gained international acclaim through his innovative use of technology to promote Islam through two satellite channels, a website ([www.alafasy.me](http://www.alafasy.me)), and videos on YouTube.

### SAUDI ARABIA

#### Al Ajmi, Sheikh Ahmed Ali

Al Ajmi is a Qur'an reciter from Khobar Province in Saudi Arabia. Prior to gaining prominence for his recitation style as an imam at mosques in Khobar and Jeddah, he studied Qur'anic interpretation in Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

#### Al Ghamdi, Sheikh Sa'd ibn Sa'id

Al Ghamdi has served as imam to Muslim communities across the globe and is currently the imam of Kanoo Mosque in Dammam, Saudi Arabia. Al Ghamdi has studied Usul ad Din (fundamentals of religion) and isnaad (chain of narration of Hadith) and is recognized as an influential Saudi theologian.

#### Al Mu'ayqali, Sheikh Mahir bin Hamad

Al Mu'ayqali is an imam at the Grand Mosque in Mecca. He left his career as a mathematics teacher to become a scholar in Mecca and is now a popular preacher and teacher of Qur'anic studies.

#### Al Shatri, Sheikh Abu Bakr

Al Shatri is an imam in Jeddah, and a leading reciter of the Qur'an. Although he studied accounting, he has become increasingly influential for his recitation of the Qur'an at international Islamic events and particularly across the Middle East and in Saudi Arabia.

#### Al Shuraim, Sheikh Abu Ibrahim Sa'ud Ibn Muhammad

Al Shuraim is a leading reciter of the Qur'an known for his unique recitation style across the world. He formally studied Usul ad Din (fundamentals of religion) in Saudi Arabia, before becoming a teacher, and subsequently became imam of the Grand Mosque in Mecca.

#### Al Sudais, Sheikh Abdul Rahman

Read bio on page 89 in the 'Honorable Mentions' section.



## Asia

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### 🕌 INDONESIA 🕌

#### **Ulfah, Hajjah Maria**

Hajjah Maria Ulfah is an internationally acclaimed 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 currently serves as director of the women's department of the Institute for Qur'an Study in Indonesia, She also lectures at the National Islamic University in Indonesia.

## Europe

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### 🕌 AUSTRIA 🕌

#### **Podojak, Hafiz Senad**

Hafiz Podojak was born in Bosnia and has won numerous awards for Qur'anic recitation. He is active in the community and was recently appointed to teach Islamic religious instruction in public schools. He is a highly distinguished member of Austria's Muslim Community.

### 🕌 CROATIA 🕌

#### **Alili, Hafiz Aziz**

Alili is a Macedonian who was trained in Qur'anic recitation in Sarajevo. He is increasingly influential for his nasheed and more so for his distinct style of recitation. He is currently the imam of Medžlis Islamske Zajednice in Zagreb, Croatia.

### 🕌 TURKEY 🕌

#### **Günesdogdu, Mustafa Özcan**

Mustafa Özcan Günesdogdu is an acclaimed Qur'an recitor of Turkish descent who is based in Germany. His participation in interational recitation competitions has made him one of the most popular recitors in the world. He has published a German-language translation of the Qur'an in an album released in 2003, is a member of a nasheed group which performs across Europe and has been a reciter and teacher of Qur'an for over 25 years.

# 6,236

The number of verses in the Quran, according to the Kufa school. Although all scholars agree on the exact wording of the Quran, some scholars differed on where some verses began and ended, leading to different figures for number of verses.

# Media

In an age of impulsive news and innovative media, these personalities have garnered influence from their activity in the media world

## Middle East & North Africa

### EGYPT

#### Heikal, Mohamed Hassanein

A leading Egyptian journalist, he has been a respected commentator on Arab affairs for more than 50 years. He was considered a close confidant of Gamal Abdul Nasser and his weekly column in Al Ahram was considered to reflect Nasser's views. Recently, his lecture series on Al-Jazeera has given him an even greater platform in the Arab World.

#### Howeidy, Dr Fahmy

Howeidy is one of the leading columnists in the Arab World. He writes for the Egyptian daily Al Ahram, where he is the deputy editor-in-chief; his articles, however, are syndicated to seven other Arabic publications. Howeidy is influential both through his popularity and the fact that he has highlighted issues concerning Muslim communities outside the Arab World in groundbreaking work on Chinese, Bosnian, and Senegalese Muslims, among others. Muslims appreciate and respond well to Howeidy's use of Islam as a frame of reference in his articles.

### KUWAIT

#### Al Mutawa, Jassem

Jassem al Mutawa is the president of Iqra 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, Dr Naif

Dr Naif al Mutawa is founder and CEO of Teshkeel Media Group and creator of the popular Islamic-themed comic series 'The 99'. Forbes named "The 99" as one of the top 20 trends sweeping the globe. He has been named as one of WEF's Young Global Leaders for 2011. In addition to having authored multiple children's books, al Mutawa holds a PhD 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 TV personality (his shows ranking among the highest in the Middle East) Sweidan is also prominent as a motivational speaker and author of books on Islam.

### LEBANON

#### Jaber, Dr Ali [new]

Dr Ali Jaber is a prominent figure in Lebanese and Arab media. Jaber has held several significant positions in the world of Arab media and participated in the launch of several important television channels. He is also Dean of the Muhammad bin Rashed College for Media at the American University in Dubai. Currently, Jaber is one of three panel judges on Arabs Got Talent, a smash hit program showcasing talent from all over the Arab World.

### PALESTINE

#### Khanfar, Waddah

Khanfar was the director general of the Al Jazeera network from 2006-2011. He began his career as a war correspondent and was instrumental in carving out Al Jazeera's position as the most watched and most respected news network in the Middle East. The network has recently expanded into other markets with Al Jazeera English. Al Jazeera's ethical decision to interview Israeli officials has been groundbreaking (in the Arab World) in promoting the idea that all perspectives should be broadcast.

### QATAR

#### Al-Ruwaini, Nashwa [new]

Al-Ruwaini worked for Qatar TV, and MBC before establishing her own production company, Pyramedia Ltd. Pyramedia is one of the largest and most successful production companies in the region producing some of the highest rated TV shows including the 'Million's Poet' and 'Prince of Poets' TV competitions on Abu Dhabi TV and her self titled 'Nashwa' talk show on Dubai TV.

## 🕌 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 🕌

### **Al-Awadhi, H.E. Najla [new]**

H.E. Najla Al Awadhi is a former Member of Parliament of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and was the CEO of Channels at Dubai Media Incorporated (DMI) for over a decade. Since 2007 she has been a regular columnist for local newspapers in the UAE. Her articles cover a range of socio-economic topics, including women's rights, democracy, social justice, cultural perspectives, and education challenges throughout the Middle East.

## *Sub-Saharan Africa*

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## 🕌 SOUTH AFRICA 🕌

### **Haffajee, Ferial**

Haffajee is editor of the City Press newspaper and former editor of the Mail and Guardian; She was the first non-white woman, and first Muslim woman to become the editor of a major daily newspaper in South Africa.

### **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*

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## 🕌 AFGHANISTAN 🕌

### **Mohseni, Saad**

Mohseni is a successful businessman and the founder and head of the Moby Group, Afghanistan's largest media company which has interests in television, radio, print, production, online news services, directories, IT&T, and retail. He was named as one of the 100 most influential people by Time in 2011

## 🕌 INDONESIA 🕌

### **Bayuni, Endy M.**

Bayuni is the chief editor of The Jakarta Post; Indonesia's largest and most popular daily English-language newspaper.

### **Mohammad, Goenawan**

Goenawan Mohammad is a writer, editor, activist, and award-winning journalist. He is the founder and editor of Tempo Magazine, Indonesia's most widely circulated weekly.

## 🕌 PAKISTAN 🕌

### **Hamid, Zaid**

One of the most influential television personalities in Pakistan, Zaid Hamid is a security consultant and strategic defense analyst by profession. He is also a popular political commentator, and is the founder of Brass Tacks, a Pakistani think tank on global politics. Hamid also hosts 'BrassTacks with Zaid Hamid' on News1 Channel. Although he has been deemed by some as a conspiracy theorist, he maintains a substantial audience.

### **Shakil-ur-Rahman, Mir**

Shakil-ur-Rahman is the owner of the Independent Media Corporation, Pakistan's largest media conglomerate. He is also currently serving as president of the All Pakistan Newspapers Society. The Geo TV network and the Jang Group are both under this umbrella organization. Shakil-ur-Rahman is also the chief executive and editor-in-chief of the Jang Group, which publishes a number of newspapers and magazines in Urdu and English.

## *Europe*

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## 🕌 TURKEY 🕌

### **Dumanli, Ekrem**

Ekrem Dumanli is the editor-in-chief of Zaman, a popular Turkish daily newspaper with close ties to the Gülen movement. He has published five books and has written a play.

## 🕌 UNITED KINGDOM 🕌

### **Atwan, Abdel Bari**

Abdel Bari Atwan is a prominent 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.

### **Joseph, Sarah**

Sarah Joseph is the CEO of Emel Magazine. She has become influential as a commentator on Islam in Britain through her work as a speaker, publisher and broadcaster over the past decade. Her novel idea of creating a Muslim lifestyle magazine that focuses on the lives of everyday people has played a significant part in changing the expectations of British Muslims with regards to Muslim publications. Emel also commands a readership of interested non-Muslims.

### **Khan, Rizwan**

Rizwan Khan—known more commonly as Riz Khan—is a British television news reporter. He gained international prominence while working for the BBC and CNN in senior anchor positions, before moving to Al Jazeera English, where he currently hosts his own political talk show. He was born in the former South Yemen.

### **Omaar, Rageh**

Rageh Omaar is a television news presenter and writer who was stationed in 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'. Omaar also hosts his own show called 'The Rageh Omaar Report.'

### **Ridley, Yvonne [new]**

British journalist, war correspondent and Respect Party politician, Ridley currently works for Press TV, the Iranian-based English language news channel. She also writes a column for the New York-based "Daily Muslims" and other publications. Ridley is a founding member of both the Friends of Islam and Women in Journalism. In addition she is a member of the National Union of Journalists, the International Federation of Journalists, and a member of the Society of Authors.

## *North America*

### 🌍 CANADA 🌍

#### **Baksh, Nazim**

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

### 🌍 UNITED STATES 🌍

#### **Ahmed, Ahmed [new]**

Ahmed is an Egyptian-American actor and stand-up comedian. He is one of the founding members of the Axis of Evil Comedy Tour which was a huge hit in the Arab World and very well-received in the United States. Following the events of September 11th, Ahmed and Rabbi Bob Alper toured the United States with their ground-breaking show "One Arab, One Jew, One Stage" which addressed interfaith harmony and human dignity. Ahmed was the recipient of the first annual Richard Pryor Award for Ethnic Comedy at the Edinburgh Comedy Festival in Scotland. Ahmed tours all across America and the globe and has appeared in numerous Hollywood films.

#### **Ali, Javed [new]**

Javed Ali is the founder, publisher and CEO of ILLUME; an award-winning, independent media organization. ILLUME has reached the forefront of Muslim-American media and journalism through its efforts in distributing media online, on mobile, on broadcast and through print platforms.

### **Amanullah, Shahed**

Shahed Amanullah is the editor-in-chief of altmuslim.com; a website dedicated to opinions and social analyses from the Muslim World. An award-winning journalist, Amanullah has also created websites that serve as an online platform for Muslim products and mosques.

### **Gray Henry, Aisha**

Aisha Gray Henry (formerly 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 (2003).

### **Jobrani, Maziar 'Maz' [new]**

Jobrani is an Iranian-born American comedian who is a founding member of the Axis of Evil Comedy Tour. Jobrani uses his comedy to dispel negative stereotyping of Muslims and Iranians. He has also appeared in numerous Hollywood films and television shows.

### **Madvi, Aasif [new]**

Aasif Madvi participates the popular American show The Daily Show with Jon Stewart. Throughout his career, Mandvi has both transcended his ethnicity and religion and appropriated it, all without compromising his talent or credibility. He believes that Muslims can take control of the way they are portrayed in mainstream entertainment media. He is the main voice of Muslims on hugely popular shows where he often exposes and mocks the fears of islamaphobia to a large viewership.

### **Mohyeldinn, Ayman [new]**

Mohyeldinn is an Arab-American news correspondent for Al-Jazeera. Previously a producer with CNN and NBC, he was one of the first western journalists allowed to enter and report on the handing over and trial of the deposed President of Iraq Saddam Hussein. He covered the December 2008 Israeli airstrikes over Gaza and became the first journalist to report on the intricate network of tunnels. Mohyeldinn also covered the 2011 Egyptian protests for Al-Jazeera English and was recently named as one of the 100 most influential people by Time in 2011.

### **Obeidallah, Dean [new]**

Is a Palestinian-American/Italian-American award-winning stand-up comedian. As well as being a founding member of the Axis of Evil Comedy Tour, Obeidallah is also the co-founder of the New York Arab-American Comedy Festival which showcases Arab-American comics, actors, playwrights and filmmakers. He is also co-creator, along with Jewish-American comedian Scott Blakeman, of Stand up for Peace which brings Muslims and Jews together through comedy and calls for peace in the Middle East. Obeidallah served as Executive Director of the 2008 Amman Stand up Comedy Festival – the first stand up comedy festival ever held in the Middle East.

### **Schleifer, Prof. S. Abdallah**

Abdallah Schleifer is an American convert to Islam who has lived in Egypt for more than 30 years. He has worked for NBC, the New York Times, Jeune Afrique and Al Arabiya. A professor emeritus at the American University in Cairo, Schleifer is considered a bridge-builder between cultures

### **Wolfe, Michael**

Michael Wolfe is the president and executive producer of Unity Productions Foundation, which promotes peace through media. The company's first full-length, award-winning film, 'Muhammad: Legacy of a Prophet' was broadcast extensively as a television documentary after its release in 2002. Wolfe has written a number of works on Islam and also hosted a televised account of the Hajj for 'Nightline' in 1997 that was nominated for several awards.

### **Zakaria, Fareed**

Fareed Zakaria is one of the United States' foremost public intellectuals. He hosts CNN's Fareed Zakaria GPS, is Editor-at-Large for TIME Magazine, and a Washington Post columnist. He was editor of Newsweek International and of Foreign Affairs and has recently published 'The Post-American World: Release 2.0,' an expanded version of his international bestseller. His articles can be read on his website: [www.FareedZakaria.com](http://www.FareedZakaria.com).

# Celebrities & Sports Stars

These instantly recognisable figures have a huge public following due to their prominence in popular culture and sport.

## Middle East & North Africa

### ALGERIA

#### Ziani, Karim [new]

Ziani is a soccer player who is considered a national hero by many Algerians after helping them defeat Egypt in a tie which saw his country progress to the World Cup Finals. Though he was born and raised in France, he opted to play for his country of origin, a controversial move since many French fans felt betrayed by the abandonment of one of their brightest stars. He has won over fans with his excellent technique and never-say-die attitude. A devout Muslim, during the month of Ramadan he fasts during matches.

### EGYPT

#### Shehata, Hassan [new]

Affectionately known by Egyptian soccer fans as El Me'alem (The Master) Shehata is the Egyptian national football team's longest serving manager. He has led his team to three consecutive African Nations trophies, the longest winning streak in the tournament's history.

### MOROCCO

#### El Guerrouj, Hicham [new]

Known as the "King of the Mile" El Guerrouj is a double Olympic gold medal winning middle distance runner. He follows in the footsteps of track legend Said Aouita and similarly has inspired many of his fellow countrymen and women to lead more active lifestyles. Much decorated as a humanitarian, El Guerrouj is a UNICEF Goodwill Ambassador. He has also received a humanitarian award from the IAAF.

## Sub-Saharan 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.

## Asia

### CHINA

#### Yue, Ma

(Master) Ma Yue is a Chinese martial artist and national champion of Wushu. His Muslim Hui family's association with martial arts goes back six generations. Yue is a two-time gold medalist in the National Chinese Traditional Wushu Championships and a graduate of the Wushu University of China. His current focus is on promoting the practice of Tai Ji.

## Europe

### FRANCE

#### Kanoute, Frederic [new]

Born in France of Malian descent, Kanoute has had a long footballing career across top European teams. Outside of his footballing career he has supported a number of philanthropic activities such as buying a \$700,000 mosque in Seville as well as setting up a charity to help children in Mali. The "Sakina children's village" was opened in September 2010 with space to house over 100 orphans.

### **Sagna, Bacary [new]**

A soccer player and philanthropist of Senegalese descent, Sagna represents his National Team as well as Arsenal in the EPL. Easily recognisable thanks to his trademark platinum blonde dreadlocks he has established himself as one of the top defenders in world football. Outside of football, he is an ambassador for Grassroots Soccer, a non-profit organisation that promotes education about HIV/AIDS prevention in Africa.

### **Zidane, Zinedine [new]**

Zidane is widely regarded as one of the greatest soccer players of all time. A son of Algerian immigrants, Zidane was the iconic player of his generation; he inspired the French national team to win the 1998 World Cup, the 2000 European Championships, as well as captaining the side that reached the 2006 World Cup final. He also had a very successful career at club level, winning trophies and accumulating a horde of individual honours including the FIFA World Player of the Year on three separate occasions. Since retiring from soccer he has organised many charity events around the world to combat AIDS, poverty and to help UNICEF.

### **Oz, Dr Mehmet**

Mehmet Oz is a cardiothoracic surgeon who became increasingly influential as a frequent guest on the Oprah Winfrey Show. He is professor of Cardiac Surgery at Columbia University, leads numerous organizations and charities, and has co-authored best-selling books on health and wellness which come up to approximately nine million in print. Oz was frequently featured on Oprah Winfrey's satellite radio channel and currently hosts his own talk show called 'Dr Oz' with an average 3.5 million viewers daily. He is a regular contributor to Esquire and Time magazine and is annually listed in the Castle Connolly Guide of the top United States doctors.

## *North America*

### 🌐 UNITED STATES 🌐

#### **Ali, Muhammad**

Muhammad Ali is a legendary three-time world heavyweight boxing champion who was crowned Sportsman of the Century in 1999 by 'Sports Illustrated'. He was an extremely important figure in the civil rights movement in the United States, who used his talent and his wit to draw public awareness to the inequality in American society. He has remained a figure of great influence, commenting on injustices where he sees them. Now, in retirement, he travels throughout the world promoting social justice issues.

#### **Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem [new]**

One of the most recognised names in American sports, Abdul-Jabbar holds the NBA record for most career points. Through his distinguished career he accumulated many individual and team honours including 6 NBA titles, 6 MVP awards and a record 19 All-Star call-ups. Highly regarded as one of the greatest NBA players ever, he was inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame in 1995. Outside of basketball he is a best-selling author and has appeared in several films and made cameo appearances in many sitcoms.

#### **Mos Def**

Mos Def (born Dante Terrell Smith) is a hip-hop artist who has recently become more popular for his acting career where he received Emmy and Golden Globe nominations. He is noted for his stance against the misinterpretation of the Qur'an.



# Radicals

These individuals are responsible for heinous acts and controversial statements that are rejected by Muslim orthodoxy, separating them clearly from others engaged in armed conflict.

## *Middle East & North Africa*

### EGYPT

#### **Al Zawahiri, Ayman**

Ayman al Zawahiri is now the leader of Al Qaeda following the killing of Osama bin Laden. An alleged radical since the age of 15, he went on to become the leader of Egypt's Islamic Jihad, which he merged into Al Qaeda in 1998, becoming bin Laden's personal advisor and physician where he was credited for serving as the "real brains" of al-Qaeda.

#### **Shihab, Habib Rizieq**

Rizieq Shihab is the leader of Front Pembela Muslim (Islamic Defender Front), a hard line Islamic group in Indonesia. Criticism of FPMI's methods has mainly centered on its violent tactics. The FPMI has conducted yearly raids during the holy month of Ramadan, targeting night clubs, bars and other venues 'not respectful of the holy month.' The violent raids are often covered by local, electronic and print media.

## *Asia*

### PAKISTAN

#### **Saeed, Hafiz Muhammed**

Saeed is the most wanted man in India. He is the founder of the Pakistani-based Lashkar-e-Taiba militant group, which is alleged to have organised the 2008 Mumbai attacks. 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.

### INDONESIA

#### **Bashir, Abu Bakar**

Abu Bakar Bashir is an Indonesian Muslim cleric and leader of the Indonesian Mujahedeen Council (MMI). He was sentenced to 15 years imprisonment at his third trial in June 2011 on charges of planning and encouraging terrorist operations.

## ❧ Issues of the Day ❧

Within the past year the world has witnessed international political developments, environmental crises, destructions and revolutions. These are the key figures that have been exceedingly influential on these issues.

### *The Arab Spring*

See Abdullah Schleifer's 'Introduction' essay on page 4.

### *Islamophobia*

❧ EUROPE & NORTH AMERICA ❧

The ban on building minarets in Switzerland, and the ban on wearing niqabs in public places in France are just two examples of the growing Islamophobia in Europe. This increase in institutionalised suspicion of Muslims is matched by the increasing rate of attacks and abuse of Muslims in public. The same is happening in the USA where several states have moved to ban Shariah. There is also a burgeoning field of pseudo-scholars and analysts/commentators/pundits who fill cyberspace with distortions and hate-speech. Several sites are countering this by pointing out the inconsistency of this fearmongering with the values of the USA – [www.LoonWatch.com](http://www.LoonWatch.com) is perhaps the best of them.

### *Al Aqsa*

❧ JORDAN ❧

**Bin al Hussein, H.M. King Abdullah II (p. 30)**

H.M. King Abdullah II of Jordan is the custodian of the Muslim holy sites in the city of Jerusalem. He maintains a unique prestige in the region. He has gone on record in March 2010 to condemn Israel's inclusion of West Bank religious sites on its national heritage list. The Jordanian Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry announced in 2010 a donation of over 2 million Jordanian Dinar from H.M. King Abdullah II for projects around the Al Aqsa compound.

### *Palestine UN Statehood Bid*

❧ PALESTINE ❧

**Abbas, H.E. President Mahmoud (p. 79)**

On Friday 23 September, 2011 at the UN headquarters in New York, President Mahmoud Abbas of the Palestinian Authority submitted a request for formal recognition of a Palestinian state along pre-1967 lines. Although this move has the support of most members of the UN, the US have vowed to veto it. His statehood bid at the UN has not been met with approval by all. Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip, criticized him for accepting pre-1967 borders, and thus foregoing 80% of Palestinian land. The Israeli Prime Minister dismissed the whole process. Apart from these two reactions, most other responses have been overwhelmingly in favour of Abbas' move, with an estimated 80% of countries supporting the bid.

### *Green Revolution (Iran)*

❧ IRAN ❧

**Mousavi, H.E. Mir-Hossein (p. 89)**

"Where is my Vote?" became the slogan of the 'Green Movement' that gained speed in the aftermath of Mousavvi's loss in the 2009 presidential campaign. The movement garnered international attention after millions of protesters went out to the streets to call for a recount and ignited a violent confrontation with the basij forces—under the Revolutionary Guard. The cause reaped global support, specifically in various social media outlets such as Twitter and Facebook. Mousavvi has since headed an NGO called the Green Path that comprises six main members and various other reformist movements to demand the implementation of the constitution and political reform in Iran.

# U.S. Foreign Policy in the Muslim World

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🌍 USA 🌍

## Hussain, Rashad (p. 107) and Pandith, Farah

Since President Barack Obama's appointment of Rashad Hussein and Farah Pandith as liaisons to the Muslim World, they have come to global attention. Although Muslim communities in the US and abroad receive the outreach with skepticism, positive feedback from Hussein and Pandith's initial tasks could potentially lay the ground for improved relations between the US and the Muslim World. Hussein is Deputy Associate Counsel and US envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference. Pandith continues to serve as Special Representative to Muslim Communities for the US Department of State, since her appointment in 2009.

## Gaza

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🌍 PALESTINE 🌍

## Omer, Mohammed

An award-winning journalist, Mohammed Omer has been credited with reporting on the crisis in Gaza for major media outlets. He was raised in Rafah refugee camp and despite calamities faced by his family--his father was imprisoned, his teenage brother was killed, his mother was injured in a demolition--he dedicates himself to journalism and reporting on the crisis. He is the recipient of the 2008 Martha Gellhorn Prize for Journalism.

## Interfaith

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🌍 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 Muslim leaders to Christian leaders about the common ground between both religious communities, highlighting points of commonality found in the commandment to love God and one's neighbor; ([www.ACommonWord.com](http://www.ACommonWord.com)).

King Abdullah II of Jordan in his address to the UNGA proposed designating the first week of February as a World Interfaith Harmony Week. A month later, the resolution was passed. February

2011 was celebrated as the First UN World Interfaith Harmony Week [[www.WorldInterfaithHarmonyWeek.com](http://www.WorldInterfaithHarmonyWeek.com)].

## Environment

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🌍 NORTH AMERICA/ USA 🌍

## Nasr, Professor Dr Seyyed Hossein (p. 84)

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 Nasr employs is 'eco-theology'. His is an important figure in advocacy that promotes environmentalism underscored as a matter of religious duty.

🌍 UNITED ARAB EMIRATES 🌍

## Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed (p. 103)

Al Nahyan is the president of one of the fastest-growing nations in the world, the United Arab Emirates. He is funding the construction of the world's first eco-city, Masdar, with zero carbon emissions which will run mostly on renewable energy. The cost of Masdar is estimated between \$15-30 billion.

🌍 ASIA/MALDIVES 🌍

## Nasheed, H.E. Mohamed

As the president of the Maldives, Nasheed is one of the most environmentally conscious state leaders in the world. In the earliest stages of his political career, Nasheed was imprisoned for his criticism of his country's government and became an Amnesty Prisoner of Conscience. Today, Nasheed has managed to make the Maldives carbon-neutral within a decade by moving the country's energy reliance to wind and solar power only. Time magazine named Nasheed #1 in the 'Leaders & Visionaries' category within its annual list of Heroes of the Environment in 2009.

## AIDS/HIV

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🌍 SOUTHERN AFRICA/SOUTH AFRICA 🌍

## Esack, Farid

Farid Esack runs a faith-based organization in the field of HIV/AIDS. His organization, Positive Muslims, was established in 2000. It offers services from an Islamic perspective and encourages compassion, mercy and non-judgement towards all humankind. South Africa is one of the areas worst affected by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

**Engineer, Asghar Ali (p. 96)**

The Asian Muslim Action Network (AMAN), of which Engineer is chairman, seeks to build awareness and capacity among Muslim communities in Asia so that they may effectively respond to the growing problem of HIV/AIDS.

## Hijab Rights

**Dashti, Dr Rola**

Dr Rola Dashti was one of four women to be elected to the Kuwaiti parliament in 2009 after successfully lobbying for the rights of women to vote and run for parliamentary elections in 2005. She is actively engaged in leadership positions with numerous organizations, as chairperson of the Kuwait Economic Society, executive member of Young Arab Leaders (Kuwait), and founder of the Women Participation Organization, among others. Following her election, Dashti was noted as one of two MPs who refuse to wear the hijab to parliamentary meetings, protesting a stipulation that requires all MPs to strictly adhere to shari'a law—a stipulation which is considered by some to be an unconstitutional oppression of religious freedom. Dashti continues to be vocal as a democratic and gender-equality activist.

## Economic Development

**Younis, Ahmed**

Younis is the young former national director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council in the United States (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. These regions in particular have some of the world's highest youth unemployment rates.

**Guiapal, Aleem Siddiqu**

Guiapal is the project director of the Young Moro Professional Network (YMPN). This organization is made up of 200 Muslim scholars, students and professionals who are all using their unique skills to alleviate the plight of marginalized Muslim communities.

## Uighur Chinese Relations

**Kadeer, Rebiya**

Kadeer is the de facto leader of the movement for social justice for the 15-million-strong Uighur ethnic-population of China. She was formerly a successful businesswoman and philanthropist in China but was imprisoned in 2000 for leaking state secrets and now lives in exile in the United States. Before her arrest, Kadeer was running the 1,000 Families Mothers' Project, which helped Uighur women start businesses. She now presides over both the World Uighur Congress and the Uighur American Association. She is well-known for her work in Europe and North America publicizing the plight of the Uighur ethnic group, and is partially responsible for raising the issue's status both in China and abroad. The Chinese government sees Kadeer as an agitator. She was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 2006.



 The 

# OBITUARIES



## Usama Bin Ladin

Radicals

**Country:** Saudi Arabia

**Born:** 10 Mar. 1957  
in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**Died:** 2 May 2011 (age 54)  
in Abbottabad, Pakistan

**Influence:** Most famous figurehead for Muslim radicals

The son of a wealthy Saudi businessman Osama bin Laden was the ideological leader of Al Qaeda and was for many years considered the most wanted man internationally for several terrorist attacks—the largest of which were the September 11 attacks that not only resulted in the deaths of 3,000 civilians in the US but also served as the pretext for two major wars in Afghanistan and Iraq that resulted in the death and displacement of millions as well as the huge increase in the US military industry that has occurred since 9/11.



## Colonel Muammar Gaddafi

Political

**Country:** Libya

**Born:** 7 June 1942  
in Sirte, Libya

**Died:** 20 Oct. 2011 (age 69)  
in Sirte, Libya

**Influence:** Leader of Libya for nearly 42 years.

Colonel Gaddafi, ruler of Libya since his 1969 overthrowing of King Idris, died from gunshot wounds while trying to escape Sirte, the last stronghold left during the Libyan Civil War. His death, whilst a captive in the hands of Libyan revolutionaries, brought to a conclusion the eight-month-long revolution against his regime.

His international relations were complex. For much of the 1980s and 90s he was accused of supporting terrorism. He was welcomed back to the international fold after abandoning Libya's nuclear program and met with Blair, Obama, Sarkozy and other world leaders and in 2009 addressed the UNGA.

He was a hero in much of Africa, where he was known as 'the king of kings' for both having helped many state leaders maintain power and for his strong advocacy of having a United States of Africa.

He will be remembered as an eccentric and unpredictable leader, hated by many outside of Africa but a strong supporter of African unity.



## H.E. Prof. Necmettin Erbakan

Political

**Country:** Turkey

**Born:** 29 Oct. 1926 in Sinop, Turkey

**Died:** 27 Feb. 2011 (age 84)  
in Ankara, Turkey

**Influence:** Early leader of a Muslim political party in modern Turkey

Erbakan was a former prime minister of Turkey (1996-1997) and the founder of the National View movement from which the current prime minister and president hail. Erbakan's election to prime minister was the first time an Islamic party, the Welfare Party, had been elected to govern in modern Turkish history. He has advocated a stronger relationship between Turkey and the Muslim world, which much of the Turkish electorate supports. He was one of the most well-known and admired Turkish politicians in the Muslim World.



## H.E. Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi

Scholarly

**Country:** Albania

**Born:** 4 March 1935

**Died:** 2 April 2011 (age 76)

**Influence:** Leader of 7 million Baktashis

Haxhi Dede Reshat Bardhi was the world leader of the Bektashi community, a seven-million-member-strong Sufi order based in Albania. He spent most of his life under the oppressive communist regime of Enver Hoxha which had jailed him for nine years and then sentenced him to forced labor for an additional 27 years until 1990. After attaining freedom with the fall of communism, he dedicated himself to restoring and reviving some 140 Bektashi institutions which had been either destroyed or weakened during the communist regime. He was internationally recognized for his active role in interfaith cooperation, promotion of democratic and secular values, and encouraging peace in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.



## H.E. Sheikh Dr Nuh Ali Salman al-Qudah

Scholarly

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**Country:** Jordan  
**Born:** 1939 in Ayn Janna, Jordan  
**Died:** 19 Dec. 2010 (age 71)  
**Influence:** Grand Mufti of Jordan

Sheikh al Qudah was the former grand mufti of Jordan where he had great influence in legal and religious circles. He held other notable positions in the past including Chief Islamic Justice of Jordan and ambassador to Iran. He was also a religious leader in the Jordanian army with the rank of Major General in 1992.



## Anwar Al Awlaki

Radicals

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**Country:** USA/Yemen  
**Born:** 22 April 1971 in Las Cruces,  
New Mexico, USA  
**Died:** 30 Sept. 2011 (age 40) in al-Jawf  
Governorate, Yemen  
**Influence:** Outspoken English-  
speaking radical.

Al Awlaki was born in New Mexico in 1970 but returned to Yemen in 1978 until he finished his secondary education. He then returned to the US, where he gained an engineering degree. He became imam of various mosques and soon gained a following for his popular CD sets on the lives of the prophets. He increasingly became more militant after 9/11 and moved to the UK before returning to settle in Yemen in 2004. He used the Internet to increase his following, and spread his message of militancy and communicated with and inspired at least a few terrorists. He was assassinated by a US unmanned drone strike, the first American citizen deliberately targeted for killing by US, despite not being tried for crimes, although a Yemenite judge had ordered that he be captured “dead or alive.”



## Nasser Al Kharafi

Philanthropy

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**Country:** Kuwait  
**Born:** 17 June 1943  
in Kuwait City, Kuwait  
**Died:** 17 Apr. 2011 (age 67)  
in Cairo, Egypt  
**Influence:** Billionaire businessman  
and active philanthropist.

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



## M.F. (Maqbool Fida) Hussain

Arts & Culture

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**Country:** Qatar  
**Born:** 17 Sept. 1915  
in Pandharpur, Bombay  
**Died:** 9 June 2011 (age 95)  
in London, UK  
**Influence:** most famous Indian artist of  
the 20th century.

M.F. Hussain was an eminent master painter who was widely regarded as the “Picasso of India” where he wielded great influence over generations of artists in the country. A prolific artist who produced some 60,000 paintings, he lived an eccentric life: he never maintained a studio, painted in his hotel room, and walked around barefoot in tailored suits with a very long brush as a cane. His paintings brought him millions which he spent primarily on establishing 4 museums and a sports car collection. His paintings were sometimes controversial, eventually forcing him to leave India in self-exile in 2006, after numerous court cases were brought against him by Hindu nationalist groups for his paintings which depict nude deities. He spent his last years between Qatar and the UK.





❧ The ❧

# APPENDIX

Country/Territory	UN Subregion	Total Population	Total Muslims	% Muslim
Afghanistan	Southern Asia	29,105,210	29,047,000	99.8
Albania	Southern Europe	3,168,088	2,601,000	82.1
Algeria	Northern Africa	35,417,515	34,780,000	98.2
American Samoa	Polynesia	55,519	< 1,000	< 0.1
Andorra	Southern Europe	90,909	1,000	1.1
Angola	Middle Africa	19,500,000	195,000	1.0
Anguilla	Caribbean	15,236	< 1,000	0.3
Antigua and Barbuda	Caribbean	89,000	< 1,000	0.6
Argentina	South America	40,000,000	1,000,000	2.5
Armenia	Western Asia	3,264,500	1,000	< 0.1
Aruba	Caribbean	107,000	< 1,000	0.4
Australia	Australasia	21,000,000	399,000	1.9
Austria	Western Europe	8,333,333	475,000	5.7
Azerbaijan	Western Asia	8,938,008	8,795,000	98.4
Bahamas, The	Caribbean	353,658	< 1,000	0.1
Bahrain	Western Asia	806,650	655,000	81.2
Bangladesh	Southern Asia	164,388,274	148,607,000	90.4
Barbados	Caribbean	222,222	2,000	0.9
Belarus	Eastern Europe	9,500,000	19,000	0.2
Belgium	Western Europe	10,633,333	638,000	6.0
Belize	Central America	333,200	< 1,000	0.1
Benin	Western Africa	9,220,408	2,259,000	24.5
Bermuda	Northern America	64,566	< 1,000	0.8
Bhutan	Southern Asia	700,000	7,000	1.0
Bolivia	South America	10,426,154	2,000	< 0.1
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Southern Europe	3,759,615	1,564,000	41.6
Botswana	Southern Africa	2,000,000	8,000	0.4
Brazil	South America	204,000,000	204,000	0.1
British Virgin Islands	Caribbean	28,213	< 1,000	1.2
Brunei	Southeastern Asia	406,551	211,000	51.9
Bulgaria	Eastern Europe	7,477,612	1,002,000	13.4
Burkina Faso	Western Africa	16,298,812	9,600,000	58.9
Burundi	Middle Africa	8,363,636	184,000	2.2
Cambodia	Southeastern Asia	15,000,000	240,000	1.6
Cameroon	Middle Africa	19,988,889	3,598,000	18.0
Canada	Northern America	33,571,429	940,000	2.8
Cape Verde	Western Africa	491,575	< 1,000	0.1
Cayman Islands	Caribbean	54,878	< 1,000	0.2
Central African Republic	Middle Africa	4,528,090	403,000	8.9
Chad	Middle Africa	11,497,307	6,404,000	55.7
Chile	South America	17,293,900	4,000	< 0.1
China	Eastern Asia	1,294,888,889	23,308,000	1.8

Country/Territory	UN Subregion	Total Population	Total Muslims	% Muslim
China, Hong Kong	Eastern Asia	7,000,000	91,000	1.3
China, Macao	Eastern Asia	556,800	< 1,000	< 0.1
Colombia	South America	46,201,000	14,000	< 0.1
Comoros	Eastern Africa	690,743	679,000	98.3
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	Middle Africa	69,214,286	969,000	1.4
Congo, Republic of the	Middle Africa	3,750,000	60,000	1.6
Cook Islands	Polynesia	24,600	< 1,000	< 0.1
Costa Rica	Central America	4,563,538	< 1,000	< 0.1
Croatia	Southern Europe	4,307,692	56,000	1.3
Cuba	Caribbean	10,000,000	10,000	0.1
Cyprus	Western Asia	881,057	200,000	22.7
Czech Republic	Eastern Europe	10,535,811	4,000	< 0.1
Denmark	Northern Europe	5,512,195	226,000	4.1
Djibouti	Eastern Africa	879,381	853,000	97.0
Dominica	Caribbean	68,000	< 1,000	0.2
Dominican Republic	Caribbean	9,378,818	2,000	< 0.1
Ecuador	South America	14,306,876	2,000	< 0.1
Egypt	Northern Africa	84,502,640	80,024,000	94.7
El Salvador	Central America	5,744,113	2,000	< 0.1
Equatorial Guinea	Middle Africa	682,927	28,000	4.1
Eritrea	Eastern Africa	5,230,137	1,909,000	36.5
Estonia	Northern Europe	2,000,000	2,000	0.1
Ethiopia	Eastern Africa	84,973,373	28,721,000	33.8
Faeroe Islands	Northern Europe	48,596	< 1,000	< 0.1
Falkland Islands (Islas Malvinas)	South America	3,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Fiji	Melanesia	857,143	54,000	6.3
Finland	Northern Europe	5,250,000	42,000	0.8
France	Western Europe	62,720,000	4,704,000	7.5
French Guiana	South America	222,222	2,000	0.9
French Polynesia	Polynesia	267,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Gabon	Middle Africa	1,494,845	145,000	9.7
Gambia	Western Africa	1,751,312	1,669,000	95.3
Georgia	Western Asia	4,209,524	442,000	10.5
Germany	Western Europe	82,380,000	4,119,000	5.0
Ghana	Western Africa	24,260,870	3,906,000	16.1
Gibraltar	Southern Europe	25,000	1,000	4.0
Greece	Southern Europe	11,212,766	527,000	4.7
Greenland	Northern America	56,452	< 1,000	< 0.1
Grenada	Caribbean	104,000	< 1,000	0.3
Guadeloupe	Caribbean	500,000	2,000	0.4
Guam	Micronesia	159,436	< 1,000	< 0.1
Guatemala	Central America	14,361,666	1,000	< 0.1

Country/Territory	UN Subregion	Total Population	Total Muslims	% Muslim
Guinea	Western Africa	10,324,228	8,693,000	84.2
Guinea Bissau	Western Africa	1,647,196	705,000	42.8
Guyana	South America	763,889	55,000	7.2
Haiti	Caribbean	10,085,214	2,000	< 0.1
Honduras	Central America	11,000,000	11,000	0.1
Hungary	Eastern Europe	8,333,333	25,000	0.3
Iceland	Northern Europe	318,452	< 1,000	0.1
India	Southern Asia	1,214,287,671	177,286,000	14.6
Indonesia	Southeastern Asia	232,516,459	204,847,000	88.1
Iran	Southern Asia	75,119,478	74,819,000	99.6
Iraq	Western Asia	31,453,994	31,108,000	98.9
Ireland	Northern Europe	4,777,778	43,000	0.9
Isle of Man	Northern Europe	83,000	< 1,000	0.2
Israel	Western Asia	7,271,186	1,287,000	17.7
Italy	Southern Europe	60,884,615	1,583,000	2.6
Ivory Coast	Western Africa	21,571,816	7,960,000	36.9
Jamaica	Caribbean	2,705,827	1,000	< 0.1
Japan	Eastern Asia	185,000,000	185,000	0.1
Jordan	Western Asia	6,474,696	6,397,000	98.8
Kazakhstan	Central Asia	15,757,092	8,887,000	56.4
Kenya	Eastern Africa	40,971,429	2,868,000	7.0
Kiribati	Micronesia	100,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Kosova	Southern Europe	2,294,438	2,104,000	91.7
Kuwait	Western Asia	3,050,926	2,636,000	86.4
Kyrgyzstan	Central Asia	5,548,423	4,927,000	88.8
Laos	Southeastern Asia	6,230,200	1,000	< 0.1
Latvia	Northern Europe	2,000,000	2,000	0.1
Lebanon	Western Asia	4,257,956	2,542,000	59.7
Lesotho	Southern Africa	2,171,000	1,000	< 0.1
Liberia	Western Africa	4,085,938	523,000	12.8
Libya	Northern Africa	6,547,619	6,325,000	96.6
Liechtenstein	Western Europe	41,667	2,000	4.8
Lithuania	Northern Europe	3,000,000	3,000	0.1
Luxembourg	Western Europe	478,261	11,000	2.3
Macedonia	Southern Europe	2,042,980	713,000	34.9
Madagascar	Eastern Africa	20,000,000	220,000	1.1
Malawi	Eastern Africa	15,710,938	2,011,000	12.8
Malaysia	Southeastern Asia	27,913,681	17,139,000	61.4
Maldives	Southern Asia	314,024	309,000	98.4
Mali	Western Africa	13,329,004	12,316,000	92.4
Malta	Southern Europe	333,333	1,000	0.3
Marshall Islands	Micronesia	54,305	< 1,000	< 0.1

Country/Territory	UN Subregion	Total Population	Total Muslims	% Muslim
Martinique	Caribbean	397,730	< 1,000	0.2
Mauritania	Western Africa	3,364,919	3,338,000	99.2
Mauritius	Eastern Africa	1,301,205	216,000	16.6
Mayotte	Eastern Africa	199,393	197,000	98.8
Mexico	Central America	111,000,000	111,000	0.1
Micronesia, Federated States of	Micronesia	102,624	< 1,000	< 0.1
Moldova	Eastern Europe	3,750,000	15,000	0.4
Monaco	Western Europe	35,000	< 1,000	0.5
Mongolia	Eastern Asia	2,727,273	120,000	4.4
Montenegro	Southern Europe	627,027	116,000	18.5
Montserrat	Caribbean	6,000	< 1,000	0.1
Morocco	Northern Africa	32,413,413	32,381,000	99.9
Mozambique	Eastern Africa	23,421,053	5,340,000	22.8
Myanmar (Burma)	Southeastern Asia	50,000,000	1,900,000	3.8
Namibia	Southern Africa	2,250,000	9,000	0.4
Nauru	Micronesia	10,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Nepal	Southern Asia	29,833,333	1,253,000	4.2
Netherlands	Western Europe	16,618,182	914,000	0.2
Netherlands Antilles	Caribbean	175,653	< 1,000	5.5
New Caledonia	Melanesia	250,000	7,000	2.8
New Zealand	Australasia	4,555,556	41,000	0.9
Nicaragua	Central America	5,788,000	1,000	< 0.1
Niger	Western Africa	15,897,253	15,627,000	98.3
Nigeria	Western Africa	158,096,033	75,728,000	47.9
Niue	Polynesia	1,500	< 1,000	< 0.1
North Korea	Eastern Asia	24,052,231	3,000	< 0.1
Northern Mariana Islands	Micronesia	53,883	< 1,000	0.7
Norway	Northern Europe	4,800,000	144,000	3.0
Oman	Western Asia	2,904,219	2,547,000	87.7
Pakistan	Southern Asia	184,747,925	178,097,000	96.4
Palau	Micronesia	20,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Palestinian Territory, Occupied	Western Asia	4,408,205	4,298,000	97.5
Panama	Central America	3,571,429	25,000	0.7
Papua New Guinea	Melanesia	6,703,000	2,000	< 0.1
Paraguay	South America	6,230,000	1,000	< 0.1
Peru	South America	29,461,933	< 1,000	< 0.1
Philippines	Southeastern Asia	92,882,353	4,737,000	5.1
Pitcairn Islands	Polynesia	50	< 1,000	< 0.1
Poland	Eastern Europe	20,000,000	20,000	0.1
Portugal	Southern Europe	10,833,333	65,000	0.6
Puerto Rico	Caribbean	3,725,789	1,000	< 0.1
Qatar	Western Asia	1,507,097	1,168,000	77.5

Country/Territory	UN Subregion	Total Population	Total Muslims	% Muslim
Reunion	Eastern Africa	833,333	35,000	4.2
Romania	Eastern Europe	24,333,333	73,000	0.3
Russia	Eastern Europe	139,991,453	16,379,000	11.7
Rwanda	Eastern Africa	10,444,444	188,000	1.8
Saint Helena	Western Africa	4,255	< 1,000	< 0.1
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Caribbean	50,314	< 1,000	0.3
Saint Lucia	Caribbean	173,765	< 1,000	0.1
Saint Pierre and Miquelon	Northern America	5,888	< 1,000	0.2
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Caribbean	117,647	2,000	1.7
Samoa	Polynesia	187,032	< 1,000	< 0.1
San Marino	Southern Europe	31,887	< 1,000	< 0.1
Sao Tome and Principe	Middle Africa	165,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Saudi Arabia	Western Asia	26,254,377	25,493,000	97.1
Senegal	Western Africa	12,860,271	12,333,000	95.9
Serbia	Southern Europe	7,567,568	280,000	3.7
Seychelles	Eastern Africa	86,525	< 1,000	1.1
Sierra Leone	Western Africa	5,833,566	4,171,000	71.5
Singapore	Southeastern Asia	4,838,926	721,000	14.9
Slovakia	Eastern Europe	4,000,000	4,000	0.1
Slovenia	Southern Europe	2,041,667	49,000	2.4
Solomon Islands	Melanesia	530,669	< 1,000	< 0.1
Somalia	Eastern Africa	9,362,069	9,231,000	98.6
South Africa	Southern Africa	49,133,333	737,000	1.5
South Korea	Eastern Asia	37,500,000	75,000	0.2
South Sudan, Republic of	Middle Africa	9,027,391	902,739	10.0
Spain	Southern Europe	44,391,304	1,021,000	2.3
Sri Lanka	Southern Asia	20,294,118	1,725,000	8.5
Sudan	Northern Africa	33,756,453	29,952,261	80.0
Suriname	South America	528,302	84,000	15.9
Swaziland	Southern Africa	1,000,000	2,000	0.2
Sweden	Northern Europe	9,204,082	451,000	4.9
Switzerland	Western Europe	7,596,491	433,000	5.7
Syria	Western Asia	22,516,164	20,895,000	92.8
Taiwan	Eastern Asia	23,000,000	23,000	0.1
Tajikistan	Central Asia	7,076,768	7,006,000	99.0
Tanzania	Eastern Africa	44,983,278	13,450,000	29.9
Thailand	Southeastern Asia	68,137,931	3,952,000	5.8
Timor-Leste	Southeastern Asia	1,000,000	1,000	0.1
Togo	Western Africa	6,778,689	827,000	12.2
Tokelau	Polynesia	1,100	< 1,000	< 0.1
Tonga	Polynesia	104,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Trinidad and Tobago	Caribbean	1,344,828	78,000	5.8

Country/Territory	UN Subregion	Total Population	Total Muslims	% Muslim
Tunisia	Northern Africa	10,369,739	10,349,000	99.8
Turkey	Western Asia	75,720,081	74,660,000	98.6
Turkmenistan	Central Asia	5,176,849	4,830,000	93.3
Turks and Caicos Islands	Caribbean	40,357	< 1,000	< 0.1
Tuvalu	Polynesia	10,000	< 1,000	0.1
Uganda	Eastern Africa	33,833,333	4,060,000	12.0
Ukraine	Eastern Europe	43,666,667	393,000	0.9
United Arab Emirates	Western Asia	4,706,579	3,577,000	76.0
United Kingdom	Northern Europe	62,369,565	2,869,000	4.6
United States	Northern America	324,375,000	2,595,000	0.8
United States Virgin Islands	Caribbean	106,405	< 1,000	0.1
Uruguay	South America	3,356,584	< 1,000	< 0.1
Uzbekistan	Central Asia	27,806,218	26,833,000	96.5
Vanuatu	Melanesia	240,000	< 1,000	< 0.1
Vatican City (Holy See)	Southern Europe	500	< 1,000	< 0.1
Venezuela	South America	31,666,667	95,000	0.3
Vietnam	Southeastern Asia	80,000,000	160,000	0.2
Wallis and Futuna	Polynesia	15,289	< 1,000	< 0.1
Western Sahara	Northern Africa	530,120	528,000	99.6
Yemen	Western Asia	24,265,657	24,023,000	99.0
Zambia	Eastern Africa	14,750,000	59,000	0.4
Zimbabwe	Eastern Africa	12,111,111	109,000	0.9
<b>Total</b>		<b>6,920,145,300</b>	<b>1,619,314,000</b>	<b>23.4</b>

Total Muslim population statistics reproduced with permission from the 2011 report *The Future of the Global Muslim Population* by the Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion & Public Life.





 The   
GLOSSARY

# The Glossary

**Ahl Al Bayt (or Aal Al Bayt):** Literally, the people of the house; refers to the family of the Prophet Muhammad.

**Ahl as Sunnah wa'l Jama'ah:** Literally, people of the practices of the Prophet Muhammad and the Muslim community.

**Al Fatiha:** Literally, 'The Opening', this is the title for the first chapter of the Holy Qur'an which is recited as a fundamental part of Muslims' daily prayers.

**Allah:** Arabic for God.

**Aqida:** Creed. This refers to the theological and doctrinal beliefs of Muslims.

**Ash'ari:** The theological school of Sunni Orthodoxy named after the followers of the 9th century scholar Abu al Hasan al Ash'ari (874-936 CE).

**Awqaf:** Plural of waqf (see below).

**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.

**Caliph:** The head of the entire community of Muslims, either current or in the past. It is also used by certain sects to refer to their own leader.

**Chador:** A loose cloth traditionally worn by Muslim women which usually covers the body from head to foot.

**Da'i/ Da'ee:** Missionary.

**Da'wa:** Islamic missionary work; literally 'making an invitation' to the religion.

**Emir (or Amir):** A title accorded to a leader, prince, or commander-in-chief.

**Fatwa:** Is a religious ruling issued by a mufti (a top legal scholar) regarding particulars of an issue in Islamic law based on circumstances surrounding the question such as the time, place, people, and details surrounding the issue. It is only considered binding when all scholars of that time agree upon it, which is extremely rare indeed.

**Fiqh:** Refers to the Islamic jurisprudence. A branch of shari'a that deals mainly with the observance of rituals, morals and social legislation in Islam.

**Fiqh al Aqaliyaat:** Islamic legal rulings for Muslims living as minorities in foreign lands.

**Ghazal:** Poetry used for describing the beauty of the loved one as well as the emotions the poet has towards the beloved. A poetic structure consisting of rhyming couplets and a refrain, with each line sharing the same meter.

**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.

**Hajj:** The pilgrimage to Mecca. It is mandatory for every Muslim who is able to do it, and can afford it. Hajj is one of the five pillars of Islam. The pilgrimage occurs from the 8th to 12th day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the 12th month of the Islamic calendar.

**Halal:** Permissible. A term referring to actions or objects that are permissible according to Islamic law. Commonly refers to food

items that are permissible for Muslims to eat.

**Haram:** Sanctuary.

**Hijab:** Normally refers to the headscarf worn by Muslim women but refers to both the head cover and attire worn by Muslim woman to preserve their modesty. It is consensus as being obligatory by all the classical Islamic schools of thought.

**Hijaz:** The region along the west coast of the Arabian Peninsula.

**Ibadi:** 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.

**Ihsan:** Virtue through constant regard to, and awareness of God.

**Ijaza:** Certification. Is a certification given to a student for acquiring knowledge of a particular discipline under the authorization of a higher authority usually by face-to-face interactions. Thus, the ability to transmit the knowledge the teacher has. This is performed under the supervision of a certified Sheikh whose chain of narrations leads to the Prophet (peace be upon him).

**Ijtihad:** Independent reasoning, or individual interpretation of the Qur'an.

**Imam:** (1) In both Sunni and Shi'a Islam an imam is 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.

**Isnad:** The chain of narrators of the Hadith: is the list of authorities who have transmitted the sayings, actions or approbations (*badith*) of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), by one of his Companions or a later authority (*tabi*). The reliability of the *isnad* is the main criteria in the validity of a hadith. Modern practices of scientific citation and historical method owe a great deal to the rigor of the *Isnad* tradition of early Muslims.

**Jihad:** Literally, struggle. An exertion of effort in any field, not just in war, in order to achieve good or prevent evil, done so for the sake of God's pleasure. The highest level of which is to overcome one's ego and lower self. It is considered a religious duty upon every Muslim.

**Ka'ba:** The large cubic structure in the Grand Mosque in Mecca, 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.

**Khat:** Script. Refers to the Arabic Calligraphy, which is the artistic practice of handwriting of Arabic alphabets depending on certain rules and principles.

**Khateeb:** refers to the person who delivers the Islamic sermon (*khutbah*) during certain occasions such as the Friday prayers, or during Eid prayers. He is usually the Imam or leader of the prayer.

**Khanqah:** a building designed specifically for gatherings of a Sufi brotherhood, or *tariqa*, and is a place for spiritual retreat and character reformation. It is also synonymous with the regional terms *ribat*, *tekke*, and *zawiya*.

**Khawarij:** 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 schools of Islamic legal methodology (e.g. Hanbali, Maliki, Shafi'i, Hanafi, Jafari).

**Madrasa:** The Arabic word for 'school'. Can refer to a religious school. *Majles al Shura*: Consultative religio-legislative body.

**Marja/Marjaiyya:** The highest position of authority in the Usuli school of Twelver Shi'i *fiqh* whose authority lies after the Qur'an, the Prophets and the Imams. Also referred to as *marja taqlid*, meaning literally one who is worthy of being imitated, they have the authority to make legal decisions within the confines of Islamic law for the adherers and less-credentialed clerics.

**Masjid:** Arabic for 'mosque'.

**Maturidi:** The theological school of Sunni Orthodoxy named after the followers of the 9th century scholar Muhammad Abu Mansur al Maturidi (853-944 CE).

**Melayu Islam Beraja:** The concept of Malay Islamic monarchy.

**Morchidat:** Literally, guides. Refers to the Moroccan cadre of trained female preachers.

**Mufti:** A Muslim legal expert who is empowered to give rulings on religious matters.

**Mujahid:** Someone engaged in acts of jihad.

**Muqri:** A reciter of Qur'an.

**Murid:** Follower of a Sufi guide or order.

**Mursyidul Am:** Malaysian term for religious guide.

**Mushaf:** Is the collection of sheets gathered after the death of Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) representing the words of the Qur'an and referring to the physical bound volume of the Holy book.

**Mutabarrik:** Supporter or affiliate of a Sufi guide or order.

**Mu'tazili:** An almost obsolete school of Sunni Islam, popular in the 8th century, that advocates the belief that the Qur'an was created—as opposed to the Orthodox Sunni view that it is eternal and uncreated.

**Nasheed:** Islamic songs. Is the Islamic vocal music, sung individually or by a group and sometimes accompanied by the *daff*. The words sung may refer to religion, history, current issues or anything related to Islam.

**Pancasila:** Indonesian concept of five basic, national principles: belief in the Oneness of God, just and civilized humanity, the unity of Indonesia, democracy, and social justice.

**Pesantren:** The term for Islamic schools in Indonesia.

**Qibla:** The direction in which Muslims offer their five daily prayers; the direction of the Ka'ba in Mecca.

**Ramadan:** Holy month of fasting.

**Salafi:** A movement of Sunni Muslims that places great emphasis on literal interpretation of the Qur'an and Hadith, with skepticism towards the role of human.

**Shahadatayn:** The two testimonies of faith: There is no deity but God. Muhammad is the Messenger of God. Stating these two sentences is sufficient to become a Muslim.

**Shari'a:** 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.

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

**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.

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

**Tafsir:** Interpretation of the Qur'an, either by commentary or exegesis.

**Taqlid:** The practice of following rulings without questioning the religious authority. This is a core tenet of the Usuli school of Islamic law.

**Tariqa:** any particular brotherhood of Sufisim (spiritual methodology) that leads to a path to the Divine. It consists of a group of seekers following their guide (spiritual leader), and through spiritual deeds and guidance one reaches the ultimate truth of knowing God.

**Ummah:** The collective Muslim community.

**Umrah:** The 'lesser pilgrimage' to Makkah. It can be performed any time of the year and has fewer rituals than the hajj.

**Usul ad Din:** The basic foundations of the Islamic religion, those of which represent creed, behavior and intellectual conduct and all are based on the rudiments of the Islamic faith.

**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.

**Waqf:** A religious endowment or charitable trust.

**Zakat:** The religious obligation to annually give one-fortieth of one's income and savings to the poor and destitute.

**Zawiya:** See 'khanqah' above.



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## ❧ Note on Format ❧

- All dates are of the Common Era (CE) unless otherwise stated. The abbreviations CE (Common Era) and AH (Anno Hegirae: years after Hijra) are used for clarity with very old dates.
- Names are presented as individuals refer to themselves, or as they are most frequently used; therefore some professors and doctors do not have the honorifics Prof. and Dr in their title. This is except in the Top 50 where titles are included. Royalty and nobility are accorded their traditionally used honorifics.
- The honorific His Eminence (H.E.) is given to figures of religious importance, such as state-level Muftis or Muftis of high stature, and also to Ayatollahs. His Royal Eminence is used for the Sultan of Sokoto, who has a combination of spiritual and regal honors.
- Other honorifics are presented where they apply, such as Ambassador, Representative, and Lady, among others.
- The title His/Her Excellency (H.E.) is accorded to heads of state, heads of government, and senior diplomats only—as per established usage of these terms. Rarely, individuals wish to avoid such titles, in such cases, we have adhered to the individuals' preference.
- Names are presented surname-first for ease of navigating and indexing, except in cases where first names are more relevant—such as for some royalty.
- Spelling of names is, where possible, as the individuals spell their own name. In other cases we have adhered to the most common usage.
- Specific terms in languages other than English have been italicized, and described.
- Further explanations for terms are presented in a glossary at the rear of this publication.
- For ease of reading we have adhered to the more widespread and straightforward transliterations of Arabic words into English, such as: Sheikh, Hadith, and Ayatollah.



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