STUNNED

Lancashire Muslims to Boycott School Meals After Halal Ban

Continued on page 3
The government launched a new website to house the results of a UK-wide audit on race equality. These ethnicity facts and figures reveal the injustice lying beneath decades of apparent progress.

If you are black, you’re less likely to own your own home, less likely to be employed – especially if you live in the North – and far more likely to be stopped and search by police.

If you are Roma, your child is likely to do less well in school and less likely to stay in education after 16.

The highest rates of persistent low income were found in households headed by people from black, Asian or other minority ethnic groups.

Addressing today’s results, the Prime Minister warned that the Government, business, police and other institutions will have “nowhere to hide” – they must “explain or change”.

But if she really wants to usher in a new era of fairness and equality, she must urgently reconsider a stream of toxic immigration policy which has opened the door to discrimination in every area of our society.

Theresa May’s self-styled “hostile environment” has seen police, medical professionals, teachers and private citizens tasked with in-country border control.

And the discriminatory fallout is already becoming clear. Three separate studies – including one from the Home Office – have found evidence of discrimination in a scheme which obliges private landlords to check the immigration status of their tenants.

Today’s ethnicity statistics reveal that – across all socio-economic groups, regions of the country, age groups and most income bands – people from ethnic minorities are more likely to rent privately than their white British counterparts.

This makes policies which encourage discrimination in the private rental sector particularly dangerous.

Figures also serve as a sobering reminder of the perilous state of police-community relations.

In every one of the last three years, people of black Caribbean ethnicity had less confidence in the police than white British people.

We know that black drivers are up to twice as likely to be stopped by police as their white counterparts and – as revealed by today’s statistics – six times more likely to be stopped and searched.

Yet indications are that forces intend to mainstream the use of immigration searches in traffic policing to meet the demands of new immigration laws pushed through by Theresa May during her time in the Home Office.

Race equality campaigner Baroness Doreen Lawrence and the National Black Police Association have warned that the move risks increasing discrimination and damaging police-community relations. Talk of a zero-tolerance approach to inequality is welcome, but Theresa May must start by taking an honest look at the impact of her own toxic immigration legacy.

Immigration policy does not operate in a vacuum – and the cost is too high when a hostile environment for migrants comes at the price of equality and fairness for Britain.
Stunned
Lancashire Muslims to Boycott School Meals After Halal Ban
Continued from front page

Thousands of Muslim families are set to boycott school meals in Lancashire, Britain, after its council became the first to ban halal meat from un-stunned animals.

The decision is expected after the county council voted to ban halal meat from suppliers.

The ban, proposed by Conservative leader Geoff Driver, passed after councilors voted 41 for the ban, 24 against and 15 absentees, The Daily Mail reported on Friday, October 27.

Abdul Qureshi, chairman of Lancashire Council of Mosques, had said last month that Muslims would boycott school meals if the council banned non-stunned meat.

Councillors Azhar Ali and Mohammed Iqbal both tried to delay the vote, with the latter saying: “This is taking choice away from schools and children.”

The ban revived a row from 2012 when the Lancashire County Council banned all animal flesh from its 600 schools where pre-stunning has not been used.

Then the Lancashire Council of Mosques told Muslim families to boycott all such non-halal meat as it did not meet the Islamic law.

Thousands of Muslim children at 45 county council schools in Burnley, Pendle, Hyndburn, and Rossendale, as well as five in Blackburn with Darwen borough supplied through the authority’s central catering unit, refused to eat meals containing the meat.

The concept of halal, — meaning permissible in Arabic — has traditionally been applied to food.

Muslims should only eat meat from livestock slaughtered by a sharp knife from their necks, and the name of Allah, the Arabic word for God, must be mentioned.

Upto 15 years in Jail if found watching terror vids online

In a move designed to tighten laws tackling extremism, people who watch terrorist material online could face up to 15 years behind bars, UK Home Secretary Amber Rudd has announced.

The new law will extend an existing ban on possessing and downloading terrorist propaganda on a PC to repeatedly watching it through sites like YouTube, Rudd said.

“I want to make sure those who view despicable terrorist content online including [extremist] websites, far-right propaganda and bomb-making instructions face the full force of the law,” she said on the sidelines of the Conservative Party’s annual conference in Manchester.

“Changes will enable police and the security service to keep pace with modern patterns of internet use and intervene earlier in an investigation given the speed with which online radicalization is taking place.”

The move comes as the Home Secretary stepped up her calls for internet giants such as Facebook and Google to do more to tackle extremism on the internet.

She criticized technology firms for developing encrypted software that has prevented authorities from reading terrorists’ and criminals’ messages.

“The tech giants need to step up and do more, take a moral responsibility for the fact their platforms are being used in this way,” she said. “Businesses are developing models that keep security services at bay and that is unacceptable.”

Recent research has found that more people affiliated to far right groups are watching extremist content online.
The British National Party (BNP) has launched a campaign against supposed plans for a mosque that local authorities say do not exist.

The far-right group posted leaflets around the Lincolnshire town of Louth that claimed a building was being converted into a Muslim prayer site.

“This autumn, the BNP are launching a campaign to stop a proposed mosque going ahead in Louth,” it claimed. “Career politicians in Louth will give in to demands because they put the interests of Muslims first.”

But East Lindsey District Council told The Independent “no application has been received” for a mosque in the area.

Undeterred, the BNP suggested the “frantic attempt” to deny its claims were part of a Labour-led conspiracy. “Our campaign involves asking local residents to gauge the level of support against a new mosque in Louth at this time because once planning permission is granted, it’s too late,” a spokesperson said.

The far-right group’s Lincolnshire branch has distributed several rounds of leaflets in Louth, with one last year calling for all foreign aid to be stopped until potholes are filled in.

The BNP was formed in 1982 by members of the National Front and was formerly headed by Nick Griffin, who was convicted of inciting racial hatred before being expelled by his party for allegedly trying to “destabilize” it and “harassing” members.

Heavy electoral losses and the rise of new far-right groups like Britain First and banned neo-Nazi terrorists National Action have left the BNP struggling to compete.

Leaders have attempted to shift its rhetoric from overt antisemitism and racism to Islamophobia, immigration, Brexit and grooming gangs in a scramble to retain support.
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Non-Muslim men living in the UK have suffered verbal, physical and emotional abuse because they “look Muslim,” research has revealed.

Interviewees described how animal excrement had been pushed through their mailboxes and their shop windows smashed. Others said they were called terrorists or linked to Daesh (ISIS or ISIL) because of their skin color or their beards.

The study found there were increases in hostility around the EU referendum and after terror attacks.

In research presented at the House of Commons during Hate Crime Awareness Week, Dr Imran Awan and Dr Irene Zempi argued the experiences of non-Muslim men suffering Islamophobia because they look Muslim remains invisible, both in official statistics and academic research.

“Although it’s a case of mistaken identity, Islamophobic abuse should not be happening in the first place,” Dr Awan, Associate Professor of Criminology at Birmingham City University, told The Independent.

He said the research showed how perpetrators of hate crimes target their victims “based on prejudice and stereotypes”.

The researchers interviewed 20 non-Muslim men aged between 19 and 59 from black, white and Asian backgrounds. They included those from the Sikh, Christian and Hindu faiths, as well as atheists. Their responses were made anonymous in order to prevent them from being identified.

They found hate crimes would spike around “trigger events” such as terror attacks or the EU referendum.

Dr Awan and Dr Zempi recommended a public awareness campaign on how to report hate crimes, as well as training and workshops to teach bystanders how to respond if they witness hate crimes.

They also suggested a social media app which could be used to report abuse online and give advice on what constitutes a hate crime.

London auction house withdraws sale of rare Quran copy

A British auction house withdrew the planned sale of an early copy of the Quran that had sparked complaints from the Turkish government.

The decision by London-based Christie’s came a day before an auction of Islamic art that included the rare, 16th-century copy of the Islamic holy book.

In a statement to Anadolu Agency, Christie’s said they had “withdrawn lot 203 from the sale of Islamic Art and we are in discussions with relevant parties about the object.”

The auctioneers did not elaborate on the reasons for their cancellation of the planned sale.

In a formal letter, Turkey’s culture and tourism ministry requested the auctioneers halt the sale of the manuscript.

Turkish officials believe the book was smuggled out of Turkey illegally.

The 500-year-old book had been signed by Ottoman calligrapher Mustafa Dede and was estimated by Christie’s to fetch a price of between 120,000 pounds and 180,000 pounds ($157,200 to $237,000).

Its celebrated calligrapher, Mustafa Dede, was the son of Sheikh Hamdullah. Mustafa Dede traveled to Mecca for the Hajj, as well as to Cairo to study the work of his father, but spent most of his life in Istanbul, then Constantinople.

Other work by Mustafa Dede includes copies of the Quran in the Topkapı Palace Museum and Suleymaniye Library, both in Istanbul.

Another Quran by Mustafa Dede from Istanbul’s Rare Books Library was sold at auction in Sotheby’s in London in October 2014.
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The University of Cambridge Department of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies has banned students from taking a year abroad to study in Palestinian territories following a series of incidents in which students were subjected to brutal interrogation and deportation by Israeli security after admitting to studying in Palestine.

This year, five students of Arabic, four female and one male, were due to spend eight months in Palestine to undertake an Arabic language course at Birzeit University, in Ramallah, which is located in the West Bank. Yet in order to get there, travellers must either fly to Tel-Aviv and travel by road, or fly to Jordan and navigate an Israeli-controlled border crossing, Evening Standard reports.

Upon landing at Ben-Gurion Airport, in Tel-Aviv, the students faced interrogation, and for some, deportation.

“I found out that a number of students, coming from different universities around the world, had been kicked out of Israel because they had admitted to studying in Palestine,” says Cleodie Rickard, 21, who was deported to Luton Airport after a six-hour interrogation and overnight stay in a detention centre earlier this year, Evening Standard reports.

She added, “...once they realised I might be spending time in the West Bank their whole approach to me just flipped.”

A spokesman for the University of Cambridge told the Evening Standard: “Whilst we do not ban independent travel to, or study in, the Palestinian territories, students cannot choose to spend their Year Abroad in the West Bank for the time being due to recent difficulties faced by students in securing visa renewals from the Israeli authorities. This issue particularly affects rehabilitation, Runnymede said.

Zubaida Haque, a research associate of the Runnymede Trust, said that offenders lose their right to liberty but should not lose their human rights, “especially in relation to personal safety”.

She said “far-reaching staff cuts” were having an impact on the treatment of prisoners. “If the government quickly reverses staff cuts this will have a positive impact on mental health, suicides and disproportionality in prisons,” she said. “But cultural awareness and unconscious bias training for prison officers is also critical to address the negative stereotypes and everyday racism that BAME prisoners experience.”

The subjects of the study are part of a growing group in prisons.
The University of Warwick have revealed their newly developed interdisciplinary network for Islamic Education.

The project is financially supported by the DCD Family Trust charity, who are keen to help with the creation of this international operation, that is designed to aid young Muslims across the world.

The network was developed from the University's previous Islamic Education Summer Schools, which were a product of the Warwick Islamic Education Project. These summer schools were created in concerted effort by University academics to unite themselves with Islamic leaders, teachers, and community workers to discuss research areas.

It was also hoped that the summer projects could create more innovative way of learning and sharing the teachings of the Quran, in a manner robust enough to stand appropriately in an ever shifting sociopolitical climate.

The current Islamic Education research network aims to build upon this previous work, allowing members to collaborate on research projects and create a great contribution for "intercultural and interfaith dialogue and understanding". The network was also created to help support Muslim with the struggles faced in daily life through developing their understanding of the Quran.

Efforts to promote the social integration of Muslim communities comes in the wave of increasingly hostile inter-religious relations across the UK. In 2013, a British Social Attitudes (BSA) survey suggested that 62% of Britons were concerned about the increasing Muslim population weakening British national identity.

Dr. Abdullah Sahin, a researcher in Islamic Education at Warwick, was one of the main people behind this new networking system. When speaking about the finalization of this new project, Dr. Sahin commented:

"There is a huge appetite and need for this kind of scholarly network, supporting the development of rigorous, research-based, reflective teaching practice, enabling the flow of ideas, and perhaps developing teaching resources to meet the needs of the new generation of learners who aren’t proficient in classical Arabic and so can’t engage with the Quran in traditional ways."

A spokesperson for the university has commented that the main aim for the project is to "facilitate engagement with the educational challenges facing British and European Muslim communities, widening participation with mainstream higher education institutions, and contributing to the achievement of social cohesion and meaningful coexistence within the context of the modern world."

Newcastle University’s Islamic Society held an outside public prayer session to protest against plans to turn the space into a multi-faith room.

Muslim students took part in a peaceful protest against a university’s plans to limit their prayer space.

Earlier this year, Newcastle University announced the temporary closure of its Muslim prayer space, in the King George VI Building, over the summer while they removed asbestos from ducts.

The room used to be open around-the-clock for the exclusive use of the university’s Muslim community.

However, since the space re-opened in September, new operating times have come into force and students claim they have been told it could soon get turned into a multi-faith space instead.

The room is now only open on weekdays and between 8am and 1pm on Saturdays, despite the Islamic community needing to prayer up to five times a day.

Muslim students took part in a public prayer session outside the King George VI building in peaceful protest against the move.

They claim the current facility is already overflowing, with students often having to perform Friday prayers outside the building due to a lack of space, and there is "realistically no capacity to house other faiths’ societies on the same premises".
I am an avid reader of PI and always look forward to reading every month the rich and diverse articles focussing upon the fortunes of the global Muslim community. In recent months, I have followed the publications coverage of the way the Prevent strategy is being implemented especially after the story that centred upon the 5-year-old girl questioned by the authorities in West Yorkshire with regards to her Muslim beliefs.

I felt compelled to write this letter after watching last month’s Kirklees Council webcast that featured the deputy leader of Kirklees Council in a council meeting stating his support for the much maligned and discredited Prevent Strategy. He argued that the implementation of the Prevent Strategy was essential in the fight against ‘Islamification’ and the threat of the far-right.

It seems that the deputy leader knowledge of history is rather limited. The deputy leader has a bit of explaining to do as most Muslims in the Kirklees area are mystified in that there have been no reports of Muslim armies invading predominantly white working-class areas across the Kirklees District! One wonders whether the elected official could explain how and why Islamification is such a grave threat to Kirklees residents? On reflection, the deputy leader needs to explain the effects Islamification has had on the district since he became a councillor and deputy leader of Kirklees Council.

One can only guess that the deputy leader and his ‘Muslim councillor’ colleagues suffer from an inferiority complex and have blindly given their overwhelming approval to the maligned and discredited Prevent strategy in recent times. We can safely say that the Muslim community votes for their own brethren at election time and indeed is being rewarded by being literally stabbed in the back.

On a more disturbing note, the deputy leader was on record saying that he has asked Cllr Robert Light to commission a piece of work on Prevent. It seems that the deputy leader is an expert at ‘outsourcing’ this work to a rival party which is particularly handy when Prevent strangles the life out of the local Muslim community.

The day when the Muslim community complains on mass about the chilling effects of the strategy upon every affected person, the latter will have these words to say, ‘don’t blame me as it’s the Tories fault at national level’.

In a nutshell, the Muslim community needs to think twice in future before they ‘blindly’ vote for ‘Muslim candidates’ who care more about their perks and allowances rather than the interests of their constituents.

Name and address supplied

Editor Box

Send in your letters for consideration
to: info@pi-media.co.uk

Poems from the Straight Path reflects, chronicles and tries to make sense of Joel Hayward’s conversion to Islam after two decades as a fish-out-of-water Unitarian within trinitarian Christianity. The realization that the God to whom he prayed was one, not three, and that Islam was the way for him to worship the God of Abraham, Noah, Moses and Jesus prompted a life-transforming journey that led Hayward, at almost forty, finally to bow his face to the ground before God for the first time.

Despite being religious for twenty years he had never bowed as a man should; as low to the earth as the human spine will allow.

The process of learning Islam is more profoundly complex and confusing, yet stimulating and satisfying, than for those who were raised in Islamic families or communities can possibly imagine. Everything needs to be learned. But first everything needs to be unlearned.

Hayward’s journey of exploration, transformation and illumination forms the beating heart of this moving collection of poetry.

Yet his poems deal not only with his own conversion and other spiritual experiences, but, more importantly, also with the everyday challenges and hopes of western Muslims who wrestle to understand their gone-astray society and its encroaching pressures.

This is a timely and important work that reveals the struggle and profound insights of someone bridging cultures and faith traditions.

BOOK Review

Poems from the Straight Path

Joel Hayward

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Rise in anti-Muslim views across Germany

A recent report by the Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research (SETA) has revealed rising anti-Muslim sentiments across Germany in the fields of education, the media, law, and the internet. According to the report written by Alexandra Lewicki, an expert in political sociology, anti-Muslim tendencies in Germany have been gradually increasing since 2015 and are affecting a variety of Muslims, as the number of attacks on Muslims and refugee shelters has quadrupled since 2015.

“Until 2014, 199 attacks on refugee shelters were recorded. However, in 2015, the number of attacks reached 1,031 by quadrupling,” the report said, indicating that the number of attacks reached its maximum level in 2016.

Stating that even though the German Federal Police, (Bundeskriminalamt, BKA) announced that the number of attacks on Muslim foundations is approximately one to two per week, the report said the actual number of attacks against Muslims is higher since the exact number of attacks has not been reported. “While German authorities recorded 17 attacks per week, German media outlets published approximately 37 news of attacks weekly,” the report said, regarding attacks on Muslims and refugees. The report went on to say that “Every other person in Germany - 50 percent of the German population - indicated that they feel alone in their country due to the ‘Muslim population getting crowded,’ while 40 percent of the population said ‘They will prohibit Muslims from taking shelter in Germany.’”

The report revealed that people who exhibit Islamophobia aim to turn their thoughts into actions, stating, “Those who support Islamophobia have clearly expressed that they want to turn their opinions into physical action.” The report asserted that the negative stance toward Muslims is the product of institutions, saying that prejudices shown towards various groups have gained high acceptance in certain periods of history. “The year 2016 marked a time when it was revealed clearly that 20 percent of some circles who are against Islam were ready to reflect their opinions in their votes,” the report indicated.

The report also revealed that German public opinion widely places false blame on Muslims regarding crimes, despite lack of proof, causing further prejudice towards Muslims: “Describing the perpetrators as ‘Muslim men,’ the events took place and Germany’s policy on immigration caused prejudice toward Muslims.”

Explaining that half of Germans have adopted an Islamophobic stance toward Muslims, the report underlined that anti-Muslim tendencies affect business and community affairs and suggests that Germany should expand the scope of its laws regarding the fight against national and regional discrimination, making the required arrangements regarding protecting people from discrimination and adopting a system of community protection to guard against discrimination in accordance with EU acts.

Egypt’s Awqaf ministry plans to launch a museum of handwritten Qurans, an official said.

Jabir Tayi, director of the ministry’s religious affairs department, said some 4000 Quranic and Islamic manuscripts will be put on display at the museum, lomaoma.com website reported.

According to the official, the ministry is currently working on selection of an appropriate location for the museum.

He also said of the copies to be kept in the museum is an old manuscript known as Mus‘haf Othman dating back to the early years after the advent of Islam, he said.

It is said to be one of the three remaining copies of the Quran ordered to be written by Othman, the third Caliph.

It has 1180 pages measuring 80 by 40 centimeters and weighing 80 kilograms.

The copy was recently unveiled after six years of repair work on it.

The other two copies are now in Turkey.
More US bombs and missiles were dropped on Afghanistan in September than in any other month for nearly seven years.

American planes launched 751 weapons last month, higher than any month since November 2010, new data from the US Air Force shows.

The US military uses various metrics to measure the intensity of its air operations, of which weapons released is one. It is not exactly the same as air strikes, as multiple weapons can be released in a single strike.

The Bureau has requested data on the number of airstrikes carried out in September but we are yet to receive it from Resolute Support, the US-led Nato mission in Afghanistan.

American strikes are hitting insurgents and terrorists in Afghanistan with greater intensity. With three months to go until the end of 2017 the US has already carried out more strikes than the last two years combined. Defence Secretary James Mattis has said that under President Trump, international forces have carried out more strikes than in any other year since 2012.

In August, General Nicholson said air support to Afghan forces would be ramping up, following the unveiling of the President Trump’s new Afghan strategy.

Ministers of OIC Countries discuss promotion of ‘Green Cities’

The Seventh Islamic Conference of Environment Ministers (ICEM) which was held last month discussed the adoption of a guidance document on green cities for climate change adaptation.

The conference, which was held in Morocco’s capital Rabat on October 25-26 with the participation of ministers of environment from the member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), seeks to circulate the document among the OIC countries, to be used as a guide in the preparation of relevant national plans.

The document calls for sustainable urban planning to be a priority in the development policies of the OIC member states.

It also calls for working on legal measures for green construction projects and increasing the capacity of existing cities for climate change adaptation.

Speaking to the OIC Union of News Agencies, Director General of the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (ISESCO) Dr. Abdulaziz Al-Tuwaijri said: “Member states vary in their response to the project of Green Cities. However, there is a general conviction on the practical feasibility of this important project.”

He added that the document includes the characteristics of making the cities smart green. It also includes general guidelines, standards and indicators for the development of cities according to green and sustainable measures, and upgrading the traditional cities to adopt the characteristics of the green cities.
Islamic schools or madrasas in Singapore should now get approval from the highest Islamic authorities in the country before they can introduce new religious textbooks in their classrooms.

This provision came after the Islamic Council of Singapore (Muis) found the use of textbooks and material problems in several Islamic schools, Mufti Fatris Baka-ram said when he announced the new move.

The scope of the obligations does not only apply to mosques and madrasahs, but also religious teachers who use their offices or homes to teach Islam to non-family members on a regular basis, Starits Times reported.

Dr Fatris, a prominent Islamic scholar in Singapore, exemplified the book with troubled material that mentions that “Muslims living in non-Muslim majority societies must have feelings of hostility and resentment against non-Muslims.”

“What is unfortunate is that many of these perverted materials are sourced from abroad,” he said.

“We must take a tough stance on forms of doctrine that should not be allowed in our context.”

He said schools in Singapore Islam would be banned from using books and literature with such teachings.

“Schools should also work with Muis if they want to introduce new books into their curriculum,” said Mufti Fatris. He added, “These new requirements will be institutionalized from now on.”

Dr. Fatris reveals Muis, has let some foreign culprits lecture in Singapore because their teachings require non-Muslims to submit to Muslims, and create an exclusive multicultural society for Muslims.

He reminded, when Muis might be able to control the content of textbooks in religious schools, ideas and teachers can still be accessed through other means, including over the Internet.

Therefore, he said, the Muslim community must have a firm religious understanding so that it is not easily influenced by unfounded and irrelevant ideas.

Dr Fatris handed over a certificate to the 193 Islamic religious schools currently registered under the Asatizah Recognition Scheme (ARS) required by January this year.

This scheme requires Islamic religious teachers and schools to be enrolled in Muis. There are more than 3,000 religious teachers under ARS now.

Dr. Fatris also announced a new Basic Certificate course for Quran Teachers, which will help about 700 teachers qualify for ARS.

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Taj Mahal was dropped from tourism booklet for belonging to Islamic culture

Taj Mahal was dropped from tourism booklet of Uttar Pradesh

Taj Mahal is one of the Seven Wonders of the World, attracting more than six million tourists a year.

It attracts more tourists than any place in India, but the monument seems is out of favour from the government of Uttar Pradesh (UP), where it is located.

The iconic monument, a UNESCO world heritage site, considered a "symbol of love" was not featured in the tourism booklet issued by the UP government last week.

The 32-page booklet titled “Uttar Pradesh Tourism: Its High Potential”, released by State Tourism Minister Rita Bahuguna, mentions a number of Hindu and Buddhist religious places but gives a miss to one of the most famous monuments in the world.

Sohail Hashmi, writer and a heritage expert, accused the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) of playing politics over the Taj.

“The BJP has come to power on the basis of the discourse that only things that are identified as Hindu are Indians. Taj does not fit into their idea of culture,” Hashmi said, according to Al Jazeera.

“They have divided our heritage into Hindu heritage and Islamic heritage.”
‘Israel must stop arming Myanmar military’

Jewish rabbis and cantors in the United States have filed a petition demanding that the Israeli regime stop selling arms to Myanmar amid the government-backed violence against the Rohingya Muslims.

More than 300 clergymen and women have signed the petition.

“As American citizens and as Jews, we refuse to accept any involvement by the U.S. or Israel in training or arming a military that is carrying out a brutal ethnic cleaning against a minority population,” it read.

A similar request has reportedly been made by a group of rabbis in Israel.

The Israeli foreign ministry released a statement to deny its role in violence and ethnic cleansing against Muslims in Myanmar.

“Israel’s military export monitoring policy is frequently assessed according to a variety of considerations, among them the condition of human rights in the target country and the policies of the UN Security Council and other international agencies,” claimed the ministry in a statement, amid growing calls for halt in weapons sales to the Myanmar military.

The Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine have been subjected to government-backed violence by soldiers and Buddhist mobs since October 2016.

The United Nations says the refugees have testified a consistent and methodical pattern of killings, torture, rape and arson attacks taking place against the minority group in Myanmar.

German Minister suggests recognising Muslim holidays

Germany’s Muslim community has welcomed Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere’s suggestion of recognizing Islamic holidays in the country.

Aiman Mazyek, who chairs the Central Council of Muslims in Germany, said such a move would enhance the integration of Muslim migrants.

De Maiziere, a senior minister from Chancellor Angela Merkel’s Christian Democrat (CDU) party, told an election meeting in Lower Saxony this week he was open to having recognized Muslim public holidays.

“I am ready to discuss whether we can introduce a Muslim holiday,” de Maiziere said, adding that Catholics or Protestants could celebrate their religious festivals in regions where they had a large population.

“In places where many Muslims live, why we don’t consider having a Muslim holiday?” he added.

Germany is home to nearly 4.7 million Muslims, and they constitute nearly 5.7 percent of the population. Many of them are second- or third-generation Turkish families who migrated to the country in the 1960s.

Mazyek told local media recognizing Islamic public holidays in regions with large Muslim populations would end problems faced by students or workers when they wanted to take the day off for major religious celebrations.

He said a Muslim police officer could take the day off during an Islamic religious festival but work over Christmas, replacing his Christian colleagues.
UAE: Global Halal food market poised for solid growth

The global halal food market has registered a strong growth over the past decade with an estimated value of $667 million, representing almost 20 per cent of the overall global food industry, according to a report.

When taking into account the contributing factors, consumption of halal food is set to grow at an annual rate of approximately 16 per cent, stated the report, ‘The Global Halal Industry Overview’ compiled by Edbiz Consulting and Nasdaq OMX Global Indexes, released ahead of the Gulfood Manufacturing 2017 expo in Dubai.

To be held from October 31 to November 2 at the Dubai World Trade Centre (DWTC), Gulfood will provide the perfect opportunity for hundreds of local, regional and international exhibitors across the food industry supply chain, including 144 halal exhibitors in the ingredients sector, to showcase their latest products and solutions.

The Edbiz Consulting and Nasdaq OMX Global Indexes’ report stated that the UAE had set the global benchmark in halal certification, with the Emirates Authority for Standardisation & Metrology (Esma) having implemented legislation in recent years for the certification and control of halal products.

Trixie LohMirmand, senior vice president, exhibitions and events management, DWTC, said: “The halal sector across the world has witnessed tremendous growth in recent years and the UAE has forged ahead as a leader in the industry in setting the highest standards.”

“Influential manufacturers and leading halal food supply chain professionals now increasingly see the benefit of exhibiting at our event, which is the Middle East’s largest ingredients, processing, packaging, and logistics exhibition,” she said.

“This platform will undoubtedly help the emirate achieve its objective of becoming the capital of the Islamic economy bolstered by its trade of halal goods,” she added.

Demonstrating a unique halal certified product is the Egypt based exhibitor Kamena Products Corporation, which will showcase its seasoning blend Sprinkle – that can be used to flavour fries, salads, popcorn and more, with flavours including Mexican Cheese, Paprika, Chili-Lemon, Kebab and Jalapeño.

Quebec bans full-face veils

Quebec has passed legislation banning Muslim women from covering their faces while receiving public services such as public transport.

Members of the provincial legislature voted 65-51 in favor of the legislation on religious neutrality, known as Bill 62, which mandates that citizens must uncover their faces while receiving or giving public services.

Despite not referring to any manner of specific clothing, it effectively bans people from wearing burqa and niqab when interacting with the state.

Bill 62 applies to provincial and municipal employees such as doctors, nurses, daycare workers, teachers and public transit workers.

A member of the Canadian Council of Muslim Women, Shaheen Ashraf, said she was “disturbed and unsettled and upset” by the new law, which makes Muslim women in Quebec feel targeted.

“The message they’re sending to those women is that you stay home and don’t come out of your house because they are choosing to cover their faces and they cannot board a bus or use any public transportation or receive any services,” she added.

“So what are they supposed to do?” she added.

This is not the first time Muslim women have been banned from wearing veils, such as burqas and niqabs.

Earlier this year, Austria’s ruling centrist coalition prohibited Muslim women from wearing full-face veils in public places like schools and courts.

Statistics Canada, Canada’s central statistical office, revealed in April that hate crimes against Muslim Canadians more than doubled between 2012 and 2014.

Local police also said there was a rise in anti-Muslim incidents in Toronto in 2015 despite an overall decrease in hate crimes.
Canada settles with wrongly accused terror suspects for $24.6 million

Canada settled a lawsuit for Can$31.5 million (US$24.6 million) with three citizens who were wrongly accused of terror links, local media said.

Abdullah Almalki, Ahmad Elmaati and Muayyed Nureddin had been arrested in Syria and Egypt after the 9/11 attacks.

Released in 2004 without charges, they returned to Canada, proclaimed their innocence and sued the government for Can$100 million over its role in their detention.

A 2008 independent inquiry led by retired Supreme Court judge Frank Iacobucci concluded that Canada’s spy agency and federal police force had been “indirectly” responsible for the three men’s mistreatment.

Canada’s public broadcaster CBC last year obtained exclusive documents showing that Canadian officials had fed Syrian officials questions they asked the men who were detained.

Almost a decade after the independent inquiry, the government formally apologized to the trio in March “for any role Canadian officials may have played in relation to their detention and mistreatment abroad and any resulting harm.”

But officials did not divulge the amount of a settlement reached at the time.

Scott Bardsley, spokesman for Public Safety Minister Ralph Goodale, said: “A settlement with these three gentlemen who were seeking Can$100 million in compensation was announced earlier this year.”

“However, I can’t confirm the amount paid to these individuals,” he told AFP.

The amount of the settlement was first reported by Montreal’s Le Devoir newspaper.

It was listed in a government public accounts document released earlier this month under “settlement of a claim for general damages” launched by three unnamed individuals.

If split three ways, it is equivalent to the Can$10 million in compensation paid to Canadian computer engineer Maher Arar who was tortured in a Damascus prison in 2002, and to former Guantanamo detainee Omar Khadr.

Arar had been transferred to Syria by US officials based on a Canadian tip. He was later cleared by Canadian authorities. Khadr had been captured in a battle in Afghanistan in 2002 and held at the US prison facility in Guantanamo Bay before being turned over to Canada and released in 2015.

The Supreme Court ruled that the government had breached his rights by sharing statements he made to Canadian officials with Washington.

“We have a Charter of Rights and Freedoms that guarantees protection for Canadians and when governments... do not defend those rights, Canadians have to pay,” Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said when asked about the payouts.

Bishop converts to Islam, turns church to Mosque

A Kenyan bishop has converted to Islam and turned his church into a mosque.

“My church was known as Nyalgosi God’s Call Church of East Africa, but it is now Nyalgosi Jamia Mosque,” Bishop Charles Okwany, now Ismael Okwany, told The Nairobian.

“During my tenure as a Bishop, I travelled to Malindi, Mombasa, Nairobi and Tanzania to preach the word of God.

“I used to take advantage of the opportunity to study the conduct of both Christians and Muslims living in the areas, and it made me conclude that Islam is better,” he added.

Okwany began his journey to Islam by visiting a Muslim leader in Kisii County to whom he explained his intentions.

He was then referred to Rangwe Imam, Mustafa Saake.

On September 26, Okwany converted to Islam and was joined by 23 other members of his church.

Currently, the mosque has a population of 63 people after 30 Muslims who were in the entire Kagan ward decided to register their membership.

Becoming Muslim, Okwany wants to study to know more about his faith.

“I will go for a theological training on Islamic religion to enable me to preach the word of God in Islam,” he added.

“I had never joined a theology class but this will be my starting point.”
At least 340,000 Rohingya Muslim children are living in dire conditions without adequate access to food, water and healthcare in Bangladesh refugee camps, the United Nations Children’s Fund (Unicef) said. An estimated one in five children under the age of five are acutely malnourished and requiring medical attention, the organization added.

Almost 600,000 Rohingya refugees have fled Myanmar’s northern Rakhine state into Bangladesh since 25 August after the military began a campaign in the region. The Myanmar government claims its forces were retaliating against attacks by Muslim insurgents. But the response has been almost universally condemned by the international community and the UN has accused the Myanmar army of a campaign of “ethnic cleansing”.

It is the world’s fastest-developing refugee emergency, up to 12,000 Rohingya children are arriving in Bangladeshi camps every week. Many are still traumatized by the atrocities they have seen and suffered, Unicef said.

“This isn’t going to be a short-term, it isn’t going to end anytime soon,” said Simon Ingram, who authored its “Outcast and Desperate” report on the problems facing the refugees.

The majority of Rohingya living in Myanmar are stateless and fled to Bangladesh without identity documentation, he added. This prevents their reintegration into society.

Mr Ingram said it was “absolutely critical that the borders remain open and that protection for children is given and equally that children born in Bangladesh have their birth registered”.

He added that there is a chronic lack of clean, safe drinking water and sanitation in the camps and settlements, which poses a severe risk of diseases such as cholera.

“In a sense it’s no surprise that they must truly see this place as a hell on earth,” Mr Ingram said.

The agency is seeking $76m (£58m) under a $434m (£329m) UN appeal for Rohingya refugees for six months, but is only seven percent funded, he said.

UN agencies are still demanding access to northern Rakhine, where an unknown number of Rohingya remain despite reports of villages being burned to the ground.

Earlier this month, the UN labelled Myanmar’s refusal to grant access to the state “unacceptable”.

“Half a million people do not pick up sticks and flee their country on a whim,” head of the United Nations humanitarian office, Mark Lowcock said at the time.

He stressed that the scale of the exodus was evidence of a severe crisis in northern Rakhine.

Malaysia Quranic school launched in Gaza

“Malaysia Quranic School” was launched in the Gaza Strip in a ceremony held last month.

The school has been founded by the Aman Palestinian-Malaysian Institute in cooperation with the Gaza Dar-ol-Quran and Sunna Center.

A number of Palestinian officials and Quranic and civic activists attended the opening ceremony, alresalah.ps website reported.

Addressing the event, Abdul Rahim Ajiz, the school’s manager, said its activities will be focused on training a pious generation.

He added that new educational methods will be used in the school to promote the Quranic culture among the students.

Also speaking was Omar Siam, the executive manager of the Aman institute, who stressed its resolve to serve Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, Quds (Jerusalem) and the West Bank, especially in the field of education.
A Yemeni man whose relatives were killed in a US drone strike has asked the Supreme Court to exercise its powers of oversight over President Trump’s use of lethal force.

Engineer Faisal bin Ali Jaber is seeking justice for his brother-in-law, Salem, a local religious leader who had preached against terrorism, and nephew, Waleed, a policeman.

Both were killed by a US drone in Yemen in 2012. Mr. Jaber seeks only an apology for their deaths from the US government.

In June this year, the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia claimed it did not have the authority to determine whether any particular drone strike taken by the US was legal. However, in a concurring opinion, Judge Janice Rogers Brown attacked the system of accountability for lethal action taken by the President, stating “our democracy is broken” and “congressional oversight is a joke—and a bad one at that.”

The human rights organisation Reprieve is now assisting Mr. Jaber to take his case to the Supreme Court to decide whether or not the judicial branch of government has the power to review executive use of lethal force.

Lower courts have been divided on the scope of the so-called “political question doctrine” and urgent clarity is now needed from the nation’s highest court.

Shelby Sullivan-Bennis, attorney at Reprieve US said: “Faisal’s case poses a question of fundamental constitutional importance: should President Trump have an unlimited power to assassinate whoever he wants, without having to face judicial review?”

For the first time, the Supreme Court now has the opportunity to clarify its commitment to proper judicial oversight of the President’s use of lethal force.

For the sake of the Jaber family and other victims of US drone strikes overseas, we hope the country’s highest court steps up to the plate.”
Hunger striking females in Bahrain prison health concerns

Four detainees in Bahrain’s Isa Town Women’s Prison are suffering from deteriorating health as their hunger strike entered a fourth day.

The women are demanding an end to an intensifying campaign of ill-treatment as a precondition for halting their hunger strike.

According to the Bahrain Institute for Rights and Democracy (BIRD), one of the hunger strikers, Hajar Mansoor Hassan, is “between life and death”.

Hajar is the mother-in-law of the exiled Bahraini human rights defender and director of advocacy at BIRD, Sayed Ahmed Alwadaei.

Along with her son and nephew, she faces a 3-year prison sentence for what rights groups describe as a reprisal against Alwadaei’s activism.

Hajar’s condition deteriorated to the point where prison authorities felt compelled to transfer her to hospital. But after the ambulance arrived, the prison’s warden insisted on having Hajar handcuffed. Hajar refused and was checked by a doctor in her cell instead.

Another hunger striker, Medina Ali, was also examined by a doctor, while two others – Najah Al-Sheikh and Amira Al-Qashami – refused medical treatment.

Abuses in Bahrain’s prisons have become alarmingly more frequent in recent months prompting a number of mass hunger strikes.
A young Muslim football fan met his favourite Premier League player after he returned a £5 note he found following Huddersfield Town’s win over Manchester United.

Huddersfield Town midfielder Aaron Mooy welcomed Adam Bhana, who enclosed a £5 note for him in a letter at PPG Canalside last month.

Adam’s story gained global interest having stumbled upon the £5 note in the stands at Manchester Utd game.

Instead of keeping it, the youngster decided to enclose it in a letter to Town’s Commercial Director, Sean Jarvis.

In his letter the youngster spoke of how he had given the £5 note to his Dad as he couldn’t keep what was not his, going on to ask if the manager could pass it on to Aaron Mooy for his goal scoring performance in a victory over Manchester United.

Adam wrote: “I was at the Huddersfield against Manchester United match.

“I found a five pound note at the stadium and gave it to dad because we cannot keep what is not ours.

“Can you please ask (manager) Mr (David) Wagner, if Aaron Mooy can keep the money because he played very well and scored yesterday. I have put the £5 note in the envelope. Thank you.”

Mr Jarvis, who called the letter “pure class”, posted a photo of it on Twitter, where it has already amassed more than 4,000 likes.

Aaron was on hand to welcome Adam and his family to PPG Canalside with gifts before the squad departed for Liverpool ahead of a match at Anfield.

The £5 that was sent to Aaron was donated to the Club’s own charity, The Town Foundation and will go towards helping other young children in the surrounding area.

Adam’s father Mohammed said Adam really enjoyed his day: “Adam was really shy to begin with but really enjoyed the experience. They took him into the training ground area where he met a few players and Aaron himself.

“They then took him into the players’ lounge where he met Tommy Smith, Tom Ince and a few of the other lads, he got a real heroes welcome. People were high fiving him and made him feel really welcome.

“He had a nice chat with Aaron and told him that he’s got to eat a lot of healthy food because he’s going to score 5 goals tomorrow.

“I would like to thank everyone at Huddersfield Town for making my boys day, as a family we are truly humbled.”

Town midfielder Aaron Mooy said he was impressed with Adam’s attitude: “It was great to receive such a fantastic letter, he clearly has fantastic values and it was really great to finally meet him. Adam was a really nice lad and is a real credit to his family.”

Syrians in Damascus collapsed into tears of disappointment as their war-torn country’s hopes of qualifying for its first ever football World Cup were dashed during extra time against Australia.

But in opposition-held territory, where some Syrians feel the national team has become a symbol of a government they despise, there were those who cheered Australia’s 2-1 win.

The prospect of the Syrian team qualifying for football’s biggest contest brought thousands of cheering fans into public squares and cafes across government-held parts of the country, including the capital Damascus.

Excitement had been building for days, and students lobbied to have lectures rescheduled so they could watch the game, which kicked off in Sydney at noon Syrian time.

Vendors hiked prices for Syria kit as demand soared for the red, black and white strip of the national team, nicknamed the Qasioun Eagles.

Dana Abu Shaar, 18, skipped university classes to watch the match at a cafe in the capital.

She was still clutching a national flag in her hand as she glumly contemplated defeat after Australia scored a crucial second goal in the second half of extra time.
Oman added to European Tour’s ‘Desert Swing’

The European Tour has added Oman its tournament schedule for 2018, slotting it in alongside other tournaments in the region which form the so-called ‘Desert Swing’.

Oman signed a three-year deal to host the event at Almouj Golf Club in Muscat, where it has previously hosted European Challenge Tour events.

In a change from last year, the Abu Dhabi HSBC Championship (Jan 18-21) and the Omega Dubai Desert Classic in Emirates Golf Club (Jan 25-28) will run back-to-back on consecutive weekends in January.

The NBO Oman Golf Classic, hosted at Almouj Golf, Muscat, will take place a month later, February 15-18, followed a week later by the Qatar Masters in Doha.

The season-ending tournament will once again be hosted at Jumeriah Golf Estates in Dubai (Nov 15-18).

“We are excited to have announced the 2018 European Tour International Schedule with a new Middle East country hosting a full European Tour event, the NBO Oman Golf Classic,” European Tour’s Middle East Director Nick Tarratt told Worldwide Golf.

“The tournament will carry a prize fund of 1.5 million euro. This is a first for the Tour and for the Sultanate of Oman. The tournament has grown from a European Challenge Tour event – the NBO Golf Classic in 2013 and 2014 – followed by the Challenge Tour’s NBO Golf Classic Grand Final at Al Mouj Golf, Muscat, in 2015 and 2016, the season-ending tournament on the Road to Oman.

“In 2018, the tournament becomes a full European Tour event as part of a three-year contract running to 2020. We thank National Bank of Oman for their enhanced support as well as the Oman Oil and Gas Minister HE Dr. Mohammed Al Rumhy and the Minister of Finance for Oman. As well as the NBO initiative there are other changes to the 2018 calendar.”

UAE appoints Zaccheroni as national coach

Italian Alberto Zaccheroni was Monday named coach of the UAE football team, the Gulf state’s federation announced.

“The Emirati football federation has named the Italian coach Alberto Zaccheroni to lead our national team,” it said in a tweet.

According to local media reports, Zaccheroni signed a contract until 2019, the year when the UAE is scheduled to host the AFC Asian Cup, which he won with Japan in 2011.

Zaccheroni replaces Argentina’s Edgardo Bauza, who was named as the UAE’s head coach in May 2017, but moved on to become Saudi Arabia coach after their qualification to the 2018 World Cup.

Zaccheroni, 64, previously coached Beijing Guoan, Japan, Juventus, Torino, Inter Milan, Lazio, AC Milan and Udinese.
Contemporary terrorism is an inescapable phenomenon that is affecting everyone on this planet. Despite profound human losses and communal sufferings the world community seems to be less cohesive in addressing this real threat that has put our next generation at risk.

Our generation is confronting an unending manmade problem of terrorism. Surprisingly, despite huge armies, advanced weapons, enormous air and naval fire power and intelligence networks with modern equipment global powers are apparently failing to cope with terrorism.

Whether it is because of a non-existence of a unified strategy or global powers race for hegemonic and natural resource control terrorism will continue to live in one or the other form.

Terrorism in all its forms and occurrences is appalling but sadly several leading global powers are evidently tolerant of certain forms of terrorism- On one hand, Thatcher’s government secretly supplied deadly weapons to Saddam Hussein and then later pushed him to enter into a conflict with Kuwait to benefit from “unparalleled opportunity” to boost its arms business.

John Pilger’s investigative documentary Flying the Flag: Arming the World disclosed that Britain has armed many brutal, corrupt and irresponsible governments in the world- Think of Suharto and Indonesia where “Britain colluded in one of the worst massacres of the century”.

Today Britain is the second highest exporter of arms and deadly weapons after America. What it means is that if there is no conflict, war and genocide the arms sales industry will collapse in Britain, America and many other countries worldwide.

Several war-torn regions across the world including the Middle East, Eastern Europe, Latin America, Africa and South Asia have seen total destruction, devastating violence, civil wars, genocide and social unrest primarily because powerful states compete in their region for arms business under the umbrella of conflicts.

Think of a few genocides that occur in Rwanda, Bosnia and at present in Myanmar with the backing of powerful states- I would brand these illustrations of terrorism as tolerant or soft terrorism- yeah!

When Tehreek-e-Taliban Pakistan, a controversial gang of criminals shot a school going blogger Malala Yousafzai it became a top media story across the world. By all means, the attack on Malala and all such incidents are brutal, inhumane and must be condemned.

Fairly speaking following the attacks Malala had received massive worldwide media coverage and public and polity ran campaigns that made her an icon and finally a Noble Laureate along with winner of several other prizes and distinctions.

On the contrary, the fate of hundreds of thousands of Gazan, Kashmiri, Syrian, Afghan and Iraqi children in conflict alongside those
millions of poor children in India and other parts of the world all with heartbreaking stories of struggle and a continuous effort to reach schools were hardly ever mentioned- So is it not a case of tolerance of terrorism in occupied lands where every Palestinian child seeking education risks life?

Too easily forgotten, an anonymous Iraqi girl blogger who wrote a blog [Baghdad burning] using the name Riverbend did not get media and polity attention even though she was campaigning for education too. The truth of matter is that she was a resistant force against the invaders who were not Taliban but a powerful state.

Series of investigative documentaries including The War You Don’t See; Death in Gaza; and Suffering in Silence disclose the sufferings of innocent people in Iraq, Gaza, Afghanistan, Palestinian and Latin American children, elderly men and women at the hands of state sponsored terrorism. State terrorism is permissible and too often it is branded as “self-defence” that ensures state and the public “security”- In other words, a powerful state is exempt from the charges of killing, torture, and kidnapping.

In contrast, several western and non-western governments also secretly fund, support and arm radical groups, jihadists and gangs to fulfil their political and economic ambitions.

No surprise, America and Britain have tolerated rebels in Libya and Syria that fuelled the rise of ISIS. Several right-wing extremist groups in Europe and other parts of the world have long been tolerated and ignored in the fight against global terrorism.

At one time America and the Taliban were considered partners by the West, then suddenly they became ‘bad guys’ once they had done the job for their masters in New York.

Remember that the American Vice President Joe Biden famously said that “The Taliban Per SE Is Not Our Enemy”. But now America has accused Qatar of being a mediator between the Taliban and the Afghan government.

Also, the global powers America, Russia and Britain tolerated state sponsored terrorism of their allied states Iran, Egypt Syria, Israel and Saudi Arabia. During Europe’s undeclared war against its arch enemy Russia the Taliban were presented as good guys.

Now sections of the American media proclaim that Russia is sponsoring the Taliban - a recent CNN report blamed Russia for arming the Taliban (CNN, 26 July 2017).

In contrast, anyone who resists foreign occupation either in Kashmir, Palestine, or elsewhere would be seen as a terrorist and his reaction will be categorised as “rebellion” and “terrorism” so this is intolerant terrorism.

Today, the entire Middle East has witnessed wrong western policies that have put the whole region in turmoil. The Western governments’ “weapons of mass destruction” turned out to be a sham, a series of false flag operations which were sold to people in distant lands in the name of religion based conflicts and wars.

As a result, millions upon millions of people have been killed, left, permanently disabled or in a mental trauma forever. Think of those millions of western protestors in the European capitals who were marching against the Iraq War but their government did not listen.

Years ago, an America-Pakistani scholar Eqbal Ahmed authored a book titled Terrorism: Theirs and Ours which perfectly fits in present day situation. Series of terrible cases of mass shootings in America get a scant attention in the media in comparison to a few incidences of so-called ISIS terrorists operating in the name of Islam.

The reason is fairly simple if the perpetrator is Muslim the story is newsworthy and if the attacker is non-Muslim he is a psychopath.

Think of the Middle East region, Kurds fighting to safeguard the American interests are “good” and “loyal” boys but those in the Northern Iraq are “bad guys”.

This thesis has lost its currency so if to ensure a better and peaceful world tomorrow the world has to reshape its terrorism policy: that is Zero Tolerance of any form of terrorism.

By: Dr. Irfan Raja
Twitter: LeedsUni7
The Islamic Caliphate in a Historical Context

During the reign of the third caliph, the Muslim Ummah became very wealthy and the economy was thriving with businesses and individuals the main beneficiaries. Many individuals chose to invest their hard-earned cash in the form of assets mainly residential and commercial buildings.

As prosperity increased and where people became immensely rich, there was a desire amongst many within the caliphate to possess buildings that became bigger and more grandiose over time. It is said that nearly 5000 masjids were designed and constructed to accommodate the needs to the ever-growing population within the caliphate. The two holy mosques in Makkah and Madinah underwent further expansion in response to an increased number of Muslims coming for pilgrimage on a yearly basis.

Military cantonments and barracks received inward investment allowing them to expand their facilities which in turn allowed a considerable number of divisions and regiments to be housed.

As the infrastructure of cities rapidly changed mainly through the process of urbanisation, several buildings were constructed in order to house travellers and traders from neighbouring lands. These buildings were the forerunner of the modern ‘hotel’ we are accustomed today in the modern age.

As far as trade and investment was concerned, trade markets were set up allowing traders to sell their goods and for the public to purchase vital necessities for everyday living.

The Caliph Uthman Ibn Affan ordered the appointment of market officials to oversee the implementation of laws to ensure fair trading took place and thus eliminating corrupt practices that affected traders and consumers alike.

During the time of Umar Ibn al-Khattab, a huge amount of money was invested in significantly expanding the Nabatean irrigation network that was in what could be described as in a primitive state. Umar had insisted on the mass expansion of the irrigation network system to meet the needs of an ever-burgeoning population.

During the time of Uthman Ibn Affan, officials were ordered to continue in the same vein and told to widen the existing network infrastructure so that the inhabitants had access to fresh drinking water and being able to use the land for boosting food production from the agricultural sector.
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