

Testimony of
Gulam Bakali

Islamic Association of North Texas
Board of Trustees
November 8, 2005

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Gulam Bakali
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Islamic Association of North Texas
840 Abrams Road
Richardson, TX 75080

Honorable Members of the United States Senate - Committee on the Judiciary

We are submitting this written documentation to be recorded during the Committee Hearing on Tuesday November 8, 2005 - Panel II of - "Saudi Arabia: Friend or Foe in the War on Terror" For the Record - Our submittal strictly deals with, and comments on the Freedom House Report - "SAUDI PUBLICATIONS ON HATE IDEOLOGY INVADE AMERICAN MOSQUES", published by the Center for Religious Freedom located in Washington, DC. Our Response to the referenced

Freedom House Report includes an Executive Summary section summarizing the various facts, details, pictures, references, activities, etc for easy reading. The individual sections following the Executive Summary provide further insight and details as to who we are, our philosophy, our track record, etc that can be and should be reasonably extrapolated to a Picture quite different than what could be intended to be implied in the referenced Report.

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Our Mosque has neither been "filled" or "invaded" by the literature eluded to in the referenced report. Majority of our congregation do not understand Arabic as a language to even read, absorb the contents and propagate the line of thinking alleged to be advanced by such documents. Furthermore, the total number of books and literature pieces in our reference/research library amount to over a few thousands. Our Library functions as a central storage and collection area for literature in the Southwest US for academic research.

We have certainly been wronged by this report that initially was published earlier this year. We certainly have no knowledge of such documents being present at our premises, nor have we ever endorsed any of these materials. The later version of this report issued in October clarified this point.

We invite you to visit our facility and see our community firsthand. You may join us at any of our Friday prayer sermons, any of our classes, and any of our interfaith events. In the past several years, hundreds of government officials and candidates have observed our Friday prayer sermons as they

have come regularly to address our congregation. Our US Senators along with several of our US Congress Representatives have been to our community gatherings; City of Richardson officials

have
been to our organization and know us very well. FBI officials, both past and present know many
of

our leaders personally and have been to many interfaith and community gatherings. The list of
collaborative events on a weekly basis is beyond the scope of this submittal. We would love to
host

any and all of you who seek to understand us further, and ask questions. Only by asking and
listening to each other can we initiate and establish a better understanding about who we are as
Americans, and what makes our democracy work.

The accompanying Appendices detail more facets about Our Organization, Our Activities, Our
Imam, Our involvement with other Faith-Based Organizations, Our Civic Involvement, Our
Women

Committee, Our Full Time School (very unique - 6 days a week full year and Religious Studies
plus

Full Public School Curriculum), Our Adult, Youth & Women's Classes, Our Partnership with
State

Department & World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas for International Visitor Leadership
Program... just to name a few.

We are very proud of our over 30-year heritage in the North Texas Region as a place of worship
and

more importantly a Center for sharing information about Islam in America in particular. We plan
to

continue our open door policy wherein every segment, group, race, faith-based organization of
our

society is welcome to join us, understand who we are and share their concerns, beliefs to help
enrich

our society. Our partners and patrons such as the Thanksgiving Square, City of Richardson,
Habitat

for Humanity, Arapaho United Methodist Church and others can further attest to our organization
and what we stand for.

Sincerely,

Gulam Bakali

Secretary, Board of Trustees

Former Chairman, Board of Directors

Islamic Association of North Texas

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Richardson, TX 75080

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Executive Summary

This section provides salient highlights that are enumerated in further detailed sections to follow.

These points resonate a consistent message: Islamic Association of North Texas' Dallas Central
Mosque referred to as "Richardson Mosque" in the referenced Freedom House Report, is in fact
NOT what could be the implied intent or extrapolation(s) of this report. The Islamic Association
of North Texas' (IANT) Imam, Board of Trustees, Board of Directors, and the community base

served emphatically reject all sorts of "extremes," and remain constantly vigilant against such possibilities. In fact, we have been condemning violence since our inception vocally by our press releases such as the one for the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. Our place of worship is a nonprofit

Texas Corporation for over 30 years, we are democratically governed; a good and safe neighbor; an active and Contributing Citizen; collaborative with other faith-based institutions; maintains an open door policy for general populace, academic research, schools, colleges, and State

Department Foreign Visitors; partners with City and Law Enforcement, encourages civic involvement, etc.

The highlights elaborated in the accompanying sections detail the following:

1. IANT is a 501(c) 3 religious institution established over 35 years ago and serving approximately 100,000 North Texas Muslims and over 4,000 people from faith-based, civic, academic, schools and law enforcement agencies.

2. IANT's spiritual leader is a well-known international figure Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci, highly respected locally in the interfaith and civic circles. He is a sought after speaker for community events both locally and nationally. He has been a steady spiritual leader at the helm for over 18 years.

3. IANT is governed by an executive elected body - Board of Trustees (5), and an Operations elected body - Board of Directors (7). The Board of Trustees providing an oversight to the daily operations includes elected members who collectively have over 160 years of Corporate America/Business Entrepreneur experience. Previous Board of Trustees Presidents have been high profile figures from the Professional, Business and Medical Community. IANT's Legal Counsel has been with IANT for over 20 years, and has provided us guidance over the years in dealing with media hype, stereotyping, etc.

4. IANT has been a law-abiding member of society and condemning terrorism since our inception. We have attached the 1993 bulletin wherein we deplored and condemned the World Trade Center bombing. We fully embrace the July 28, 2005 Fiqh Council of North America Fatwa against Terrorism.

5. Since 9/11, there has been even a greater bond between IANT and its neighbors, City of Richardson, Faith-Based Organizations, and society at large. This was due largely to IANT's immediate action plan wherein Press Releases were issued, three Major Open Houses arranged for public tours - each followed up with Q & A, Strategy sessions with Law Enforcement for security enhancement, etc.

6. IANT maintains a Library with access to those requesting for reading, research, and school projects. IANT being the largest organization in the area provides the library as a service to not only Muslims but all other faith based groups for research and special projects. IANT records indicate that the books referenced in the Freedom House Report as collected from the "Richardson Mosque":

A. Were NOT found in the Library

B. Were NOT ordered/purchased for use by IANT

C. Were NOT distributed to IANT congregation

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D. Were NOT "read from" to IANT congregation

E. Were NOT promoted "FOR PURCHASE" to its congregation

F. Were NOT used to develop or author any POSITION paper to promote a "point of

view"

In fact, majority of our members do not access the library books unless there is a dire need for Academic research or something similar. The Library Operations amount to a very small portion of the overall IANT functions.

7. In addition to a place of worship serving American Muslims, IANT is an ACTIVE, PARTICIPATING and CONTRIBUTING Member of Society as evidenced by IANT's Activities (Classes, Study Groups, Women's activities); Services provided (Outreach, Interfaith, Refugee Relief, Medical Clinic); Education Services (Arabic & Dr. Kavakci's Lectures); School Programs - Full time (6 days weekly, all year) and other civic and collaborative events with City, Law Enforcement & other faith-based institutions, etc.

8. High Profile Visitors/Patrons & Friends/References belong to various groups such as: City, FBI, State elected officials, US Congress officials, Thanksgiving Square, Schools, Churches, Dallas International Visitors Bureau, Major Hospitals/Medical Community, State & Federal Agencies, Special State Department Guests from Iraq, Mali, Jordan, India, Sierra Leone, Niger, Crown Prince (then, now king) Abdullah's special assistants, China, Kazakhstan, Azerbaijan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan (just to name a few)

9. IANT had Women's active participation from its initial inception which continues to this day. The first IANT Board Member was (still living) Ms Amina Ismail and the currently elected IANT Board Member is Mrs. Bassima Dandan. IANT Women are VERY active and have their own elected volunteer committee headed by Ms Noor Sadeh. This committee participates in any IANT activities whether it is Outreach, Relief, etc. Currently the IANT Operations staff split as follows:

Office Operations: (2 Women, 4 Men)

IQA (Full-Time School) Teachers: (10 Women, 6 Men)

PTO Board President Mrs. Sadia Muzaffar

10. IANT has continued to receive the same treatment in terms of full cooperation and support from the City of Richardson Police Department and the FBI since 9/11. In fact, depending on the alert level bulletin issued by the Homeland Security Department and the media attention, we receive calls from them before we request additional surveillance.

11. IANT's collaboration and coordination with faith-based groups and others include for example: GDCC (Greater Dallas Community of Churches), Thanksgiving Square, DISD Religious Task Force, RISD Religious Task Force, Arapaho United Methodist Church, North Dallas Bible fellowship, Dallas Mayor's Interfaith Group, Habitat for Humanity, Adopt-a-Highway Program, Temple Shalom, Temple Emanuel just to name a few.

12. On the Human Relief & Development issues, IANT has empowered Cindy Weber to organize and manage the Refugee Committee for over 5 years. She runs a Warehouse for storing supplies needed for the ones that came to our shores from Bosnia, Somalia, Iraq (Kurds), Ethiopia and others.

13. Lately, with Hurricanes Katrina and Rita disasters - IANT opened its prayer locations for accommodating evacuees that were served three meals plus a 24 hour food supply stored in the coolers for as needed arrivals. Lastly, we have been encouraging Funds to be collected from all faith based organizations to be sent as part of the relief efforts for the latest earthquake.

Appendix 1 - Our Imam Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci

Our Imam's Teacher

One of our Imam's great teachers was the late Dr. Muhammad Hamidullah, a giant among scholars.

Dr. Hamidullah wrote over 250 books, papers, and manuscripts in French, Urdu, Arabic, English and German. [Click here](#) to learn more about this noble and honorable man of Islam.

Our Imam and his Publications

Our Imam at the Islamic Association of North Texas is Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci. Below is a short biography of him, and plain text copies of some of his publications and works-in-progress.

Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci

Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci was born on June 22, 1938 in Hendek, Sakarya, Turkey. At an early age (8-9

years) he accomplished memorizing whole Qur'an (Hifz al-Qur'an), graduated from Hasircilar Qur'anic School (Adapazari) with a training in Tajwid, Qira'ah, Arabic (Sarf and Nahw), Tafsir, Hadith, Fiqh, and allied Islamic Sciences. He passed national Exams for Waiz (Preacher and lecturer

in Islamic Sciences) and Mufti (ordained and authorized to give Fatwa and religious verdict in Islamic field) and qualified for those jobs. He worked as Muadhdhin (Professional caller to prayer,

Hirka-i Sharif Mosque), Imam (Kara Ahmed Pasha Mosque in Topkapi), and Waiz in the governorships Faith and Beyoglu in Istanbul.

Dr. Kavakci received a bachelor's degree in Law from The College of Law of Istanbul University and

also in Islamic Studies from the Institute of Higher Islamic Studies, got his Ph.D. in Islamic History

and Culture from Faculty of Arts, Istanbul University. After working as Assistant Professor and as

Associate Professor in the Institute of Islamic Research, Istanbul University, he helped to establish

the first college of Islamic Studies in modern Turkey. The College of Islamic Studies is now a part of

Ataturk University, Erzurum where Dr. Kavakci worked as senior faculty. He chaired Tafsir, Hadith, Fiqh and other departments and got full professorship in Islamic Law and worked as Dean

of the College. His professorship in Islamic Law was the first such position in Turkey after the fall of

the Ottoman Empire. He was educated in the traditional Ottoman way of Islamic Studies as well as

in modern methods of teaching in today's universities.

He is a board certified attorney in Turkey and practiced Law in Libya, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and attended numerous International Conferences on Islam. He was involved in the activities of the Islamic Conference and was in charge of the Muslim Minority students sponsored by Islamic Development Bank in Turkey.

In addition to numerous books published in Turkish, he has published the following books in English:

? Islam (Briefly), (1991), Istanbul, Turkey.

? Travelogue of my journey to the Cape of Good Hope by Omer Lutfi Efendi, (Translation from Ottoman Turkish), (1991), Cape Town, South Africa.

? Islamic Law of Inheritance, (1994), Dallas, Texas.

His works in progress which are yet to be published include:

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? Al-Furuq by Al-Karabisi (textual Criticism in Arabic).

? Fiqh, Islamic Law and Usul Al-Fiqh.

? Methodolgy of Islamic Research.

? America I Saw and My Impressions.

? Bibliography of Islamic Law.

? Multaqa 'l-Abhur by Ibrahim al-Halabi (translation, Arabic to English).

? Islamic Issues of Muslims in America (an analytical study and suggestions for solutions).

Dr. Kavakci currently resides in Richardson, Texas. He is the resident Islamic Scholar and Spiritual

Leader of the Muslim community affiliated with the Islamic Association of North Texas.

Dr. Kavakci's Works

Copyright and Disclaimer

All books and writings are only for private and scholarship purpose. No copying without prior written permission. Some of these books and writings are drafts, they are not final.

No legal responsibility for any part of them.

Comments will be appreciated.

Your brother,

Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci

Travel Accounts of Cape of Good Hope by Omer Lutfi Efendi (Translation from Ottoman Turkish) (.txt)

Translator's Note for Travel Accounts of Cape of Good Hope (.txt)

Islamic Inheritance Law (.txt)

Fiqh, Islamic Law and Usul Al-Fiqh (.txt)

Methodology of Islamic Research (.txt)

America I saw and My Impressions (Turkish) (.txt)

Islamic Issues of Muslims in America (.txt)

Multaqa'l-Abhur by Ibrahim al-Halabi (Translation from Arabic)

Part #1 of 11 (.txt)

Part #2 of 11 (.txt)

Part #3 of 11 (.txt)

Part #4 of 11 (.txt)

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Part #5 of 11 (.txt)

Part #6 of 11 (.txt)

Part #7 of 11 (.txt)

Part #8 of 11 (.txt)

Part #9 of 11 (.txt)

Part #10 of 11 (.txt)

Part #11 of 11 (.txt)

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Appendix 2 - IANT Details

About IANT

The Islamic Association of North Texas (IANT) is a non-profit organization of Muslims dedicated to

worship, education and services in the North Texas area. We provide several prayer halls for worship; educational programs both in and outside our facility; and we provide numerous services

to the community, including a free medical clinic.

IANT is located at 840 Abrams Road in Richardson, TX. The organization currently provides the following services:

? Five daily prayers, Jumma (Friday) prayers, Taraweeh prayers, Eid prayers, and Janaza (Funeral) prayers

? Ghusl (washing) facility at the masjid for the deceased

? Two Quranic School programs with daily and Sunday Schedules

? Speakers for churches, prisons, schools, universities, and other institutions

? Dawah (Outreach) programs for new and non-Muslims

? Distribution of Zakah and Fitrah

? Library facility in the masjid for Islamic research

? Medical Clinic

? Family and marriage counseling services

? Multipurpose Hall for sports and community activities

? Two permanent Musallahs. One in the Telecom Corridor and the other in East Dallas

As you can see we are a very active community. Click here for pictures of recent events.

Contact Information

Mailing Address P.O. Box 833010

Richardson, TX 75083

Dallas Central Mosque ... [Map it!] 840 Abrams Road

Richardson, TX 75081

972-231-5698 (Phone)

972-231-6707 (Fax)

Telecom Corridor Musallah (Prayer Hall) ... [Map it!]

1600 Plano Road

Suite 200

Richardson, TX 75081

972-231-6828 (Phone)

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Appendix 3 - Class Subjects of Dr. Kavakci - few samples

CLASSES and LECTURES OF Dr. YUSUF ZIYA KAVAKCI

(As of August 22, 05)

1. HADITH: al-Arba'una Hadithan by al-Nawawi, Arabic Text, Study and Grammatical Analysis, Tuesdays 7.00 8.30 pm and Saturdays 1.00 - 2.00 pm.

2. Qur'anic Text, Study and Grammatical Analysis, Sundays 12.30 pm - 1.30 pm. This is a class continues more than 15 years, at the moment we are in the Surah al-Ahzab, 21st para.

3. COMPARATIVE FIQH: al-Fiqhu 'ala al-Madhahib al-Arba'ah by al-Jaziri, Arabic Text, study and

Explanation to the Congregation, every day after fajr prayer, at the moment we are in the chapter of

"al-Sawm", Fasting.

4. Sirah of the Prophet Muhammad, Lectures, Thursdays after Maghrib Prayers Congregation.

5. CURRENT FIQH ISSUES: This is a part of Suffa Academy, a college level class, Sundays 2.15 pm -

3.45 pm.

6. 'AQIDA: al-FIQH al-AKBAR by Imam A'zam Abu Hanifa: Arabic Text, Study and Grammatical

Analysis. This is the Alim Program for IQA Students, as the IQA Management Schedules. Two periods a week.

7. al-FIQH: NUR al-IDAH by al-Shurunbilali, Arabic text, Study and Grammatical Analysis, This is

one period per week as Alim Program for IQA Students, the days as scheduled by IQA Management.

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Appendix 4 - Class Subjects - For Men, Women & Children

IAANT Halaqa Class Schedule

MONDAY Who/ Dept Subject Time Place Duration

Men's and Women's

Classes Imam Yusuf Comparative Fiqh after Fajr

Means prayer

area Ongoing

Children's Classes Br Ali Martial Arts 4:00-(90 min) MPH Ongoing

TUESDAY Who/ Dept Subject Time Place Duration

Men's and Women's

Classes Imam Yusuf Comparative Fiqh after Fajr

Mens prayer

area Ongoing

Imam Yusuf Advanced Arabic 7:30-8:30p Rm 12 Ongoing

Dr. Zafar

Anjum English Lecture Maghrib- Isha

Mens prayer

area Ongoing

Women's Classes Asma Yoonas Urdu Dars 11:00a -1:00p

Upstairs sisters

area Ongoing

Wednesday Who/ Dept Subject Time Place Duration

Men's Classes Wednesday Obaid Alvi English Halaqa Maghrib- Isha Ongoing

Men's and Women's

Classes Imam Yusuf Comparative Fiqh After Fajr

Mens prayer

area Ongoing

Children's Classes Br Ali Martial Arts 4:00-(90 min) MPH Ongoing

Thursday Who/ Dept Subject Time Place Duration

Men's and Women's

Classes Imam Yusuf Comparative Fiqh After Fajr

Mens prayer

area Ongoing

Imam Yusuf

Sirah of Prophet

(saw) After Maghrib

Mens prayer

area Ongoing

Women's Classes Asma Yoonas Urdu Dars 10:00a -2:00p

Upstrs/dwnstrs

sisters Ongoing

Friday Who/ Dept Subject Time Place Duration

Men's Classes n/a

Arabic Mens

Halaqa Maghrib- Isha

Mens Prayer

Hall Ongoing

Men's and Women's

Classes Imam Yusuf Comparative Fiqh After Fajr

Mens prayer

area Ongoing

Women's Classes Akila Aziz English Halaqa 7: 00p-Maghrib

Upstairs sisters

area Ongoing

Nia Mackay Aerobics 7:00p- 8:00p Rm 12 Ongoing

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Nessrein

Shaitah Arabic Halaqa Maghrib-Isha

Upstairs sisters

area Ongoing

Children's Classes Nadiyah Black Girls Youth Halaqa 8:00p-10:00p Room12 Ongoing

Saturday Who/ Dept Subject Time Place Duration

Men's and Women's

Classes Imam Yusuf Comparative Fiqh After Fajr

Mens prayer

area Ongoing

Outreach New Muslims 10:00a Rm 12 Ongoing

Imam Arafu Quran Tafsser 11:00a -3:00p Library Ongoing

Br. Mansoor Beginners Arabic 11:00a-12:00p Rm 12 na
 Imam Yusuf Advanced Arabic 1:00p -2:00p Rm 12 Ongoing
 Abu
 AbdulRahman Spanish Halaqa 8:00p- Isha Rm 12 Ongoing
 Br. Ahsan Computer Basics 214-763-6219 Computer Lab 8 weeks
 Women's Classes Imam Arafī Quran Tafseer 6:00p-7:00p rm 12 12/5/05
 Children's Classes Faisal Ghorī Quranic Stories 11:30a-12:30p
 Mens Prayer
 area Ongoing
 Iram Rafiq Islamic Studies 10a -1130a Room 3 and 4 8/6-1/21
 Iram Rafiq Islamic Studies 10a -1130a
 Upstairs sisters
 area 8/6-1/21
 Sunday Who/ Dept Subject Time Place Duration
 Men's Classes Nabil Elbiary Islamic Issues 1:30-2:00p
 Mens Prayer
 Hall Ongoing
 Obaid Alvi Dawah Asr-Maghrib
 Mens Prayer
 Hall Ongoing
 Men's and Women's
 Classes Imam Yusuf Comparative Fiqh After Fajr
 Mens prayer
 area Ongoing
 Imam Yusuf Quran Tafsser 12:30p-1:30p Rm 12 Ongoing
 Outreach Discover Islam 6:30p-8:30p Rm 12 Ongoing
 Women's Classes
 Sr Amina
 Momin English Halaqa 11:00a-12:30p
 Upstairs sisters
 area Ongoing
 Sofia Adam Ethiopian Halaqa 4:00p-6:30p rm 12 9/26/05

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Appendix 5 - Women Committee Details

Welcome to IANT Sisters Committee Webpage

Vision Statement: Educate the Muslim women of their rights and responsibilities, educate the general populace about the true status of women in Islam, and promote unity amongst the Muslim women.

Roles and Responsibilities: IANTWC is an integral part of IANT its role is to support IANT objectives, programs and activities, and serves as a medium to voice women's concerns, promote Islamic education with a focus on women and children.

Activities: There are two main activities i.e., halaqas (study circles), classes offered on regular basis

(weekly) mainly for local community; and program events, special activities offered to the greater

Muslim community.

Halaqas: Various halaqas are being offered in IANT Masjid as part of IANTWC programs. Some of

the halaqas offered are exclusively for women.

Program Events:

Day seminars for women

Participated in City's sponsored public festival

Q/A sessions with Imam

Basketball Tournament

Workshop for Etiquettes in Islam and Masjid

Pre-Ramadan seminar

Quran Reading in Ramadan

Qiyamul-lail

Eid Celebration Party

Babysitting Service: Babysitting services will be provided during halaqas, Juma prayer, or any special events, such as during taraweh prayer in month of Ramadan. This program offers various educational and Islamic activities for toddlers (1 to 4) as well as for older children (5 to 11). In some

cases, the services are free and others require a small fee. For information regarding babysitting, please contact us at (infoIANTWC@iant.com)

Volunteer Service: Volunteer is Sadaqa! Consider volunteering your time and talents as way of giving charity. We are ALWAYS in need of volunteers for our dynamic Masjid activities. For volunteering information please contact us at (infoIANTWC@iant.com)

Halaqa List:

Women English Halaqa: Various topics regarding Islam and women's issues. Srs. Maryam Hashmi

and Amina Momin. Sundays 12:30-2:00 PM and Fridays 7:00-8:00 PM (Women's Musallah Upstairs).

Qur'an Reading: Learn how to read Qur'an for beginners. Sr. Aziza Al-Sorgy (Umm Ahmad.) 12

Sundays 2:30-4:00PM (Room 12).

Women's Urdu Halaqa: Presented in Urdu. Various topics regarding Islam and women's issues. Sr.

Asma Yoonas. Thursdays 11:00-1:00 PM (Women's Musallah, Upstairs).

Women's Arabic Halaqa: Various topics regarding Islam and women's issues. Sr. Neveen Yamany.

Fridays 8:00-9:30 PM. (Women's Prayer Hall Upstairs).

Young Sisters' Halaqa: Topics regarding women's roles in Islam. Sr. Nadia Black. Fridays 7:30-9:30

PM (Room 12).

Reflection of Qur'an and Sunnah: Topics related ummah and Islam. Advance class. Imam Al Arrafi. Saturdays 12:30-2:00 PM (IQA Library).

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Appendix 6 - Classes for Women

Sisters Sessions

Sheikh Yusuf Ziya Kavakci revives the Sunnah of teaching sisters in his local community. We

would

like to share the information with others. Each session is independent and starts with a short lecture

followed by Questions & Answers.

Click here to view Dr. Kavakci's short biography, and plain text copies of some of his publications

and works-in-progress. These lectures are offered at The Dallas Central Mosque.

840 Abrams Rd, Richardson TX, 75081 [Map it!]

To watch any particular session please click on the topic below:

? How to be a good Muslim: lecture and Questions & Answers

? Tawakkul: Reliance on Allah (SWT), followed by questions and answers

? Taqwa : Securing protection from Allah (SWT), followed by Q & A

? Priority : Setting priority in our daily life

? Time : The importance of time

? Description of the Major Sin of Backbiting and How to Repent From It: The rights of Allah and the rights of people; the violation of those rights in the sin of backbiting; the description of backbiting; the punishment for the sin on the Day of Judgment; repentance and forgiveness for the sin.

? Women's Responsibilities in Prayer, Hajj, Inheritance, and Financial Transactions: the unique issues relating to sisters' performance of religious duties such as prayer and hajj; how to prepare for burial expenses; guidelines for a correct Islamic will; buying houses in the U.S. in a legal Islamic manner.

? Guidelines for raising Muslim children: The steps we can take to build a strong Islamic identity for our children in America; disciplining children; how to teach them; the important of reaching to their hearts.

? The importance of Salah: Islam is built on five pillars. Shahadah, fasting, pilgrimage and zakat make up 10% of the pillars of Islam. Salah is ruled by time, necessity of water, place and has many rules. It constitutes 90% of the pillars.

? General Questions Halaqa: Dr. Kavakci is the presenter in a special session of the Sisters' regular Friday evening English study circle. Topics covered include: Sunnah prayers; Jumuah prayer and its validity; coloring of women's hair; shirk; husband's rights on his wife; fiqh of Muslim minorities in the West.

? Halaqa on Dec. 3, 2004: Dr. Kavakci is the presenter in a special session of the Sisters' regular Friday evening English study circle. Topics include: Allah the creator; being a 24-hour Muslim; the importance of understanding Islamic school of thought. Words of wisdom in dealing with non-Muslims at work.

? Sunnah and Culture: How to distinguish between Sunnah and culture. Sunnah includes Prophet's saying, deeds, action and approval.

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Appendix 7 - Activities involving the Larger Community

Outreach Programs

? Discover Islam: People of other faiths who are interested to learn about and explore Islam, are invited to attend sessions on Sundays from 6:30 to 8:30 PM

? Islamic Life Program: People that have recently become Muslims who are interested in expanding their knowledge of Islam, are invited to attend sessions on Sundays from 5:00 to 6:30 PM.

? Open Houses

IANT held 3 Open Houses since September 2001 for Dallas residence to build good relationships. The programs were designed to promote understanding and build bridges between Muslims and community at large. Around 10,000 Dallas area residence visited IANT during the Open Houses. Many citizens provided positive feedback and appreciated the services that IANT has provided.

? Soup Kitchen

Cook fresh meals twice a month for families in need at two different development centers. The development centers are for children and families who have lost jobs and homes and are in need of temporary housing. IANT has been providing volunteers to the development centers since Jan 2003. The volunteers shop for groceries, cook at the shelters and then have dinner with the families. Received "Weekend Chef" award for these services in 2004.

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? Adopt A Highway

IANT has adopted a 2 miles long highway in Garland, Texas and is responsible for keeping it clean. This Litter-Free day is held once a quarter to keep the neighborhood clean. Please, see the attached picture.

? Gleaning Sweet Potatoes

Gleaned sweet potatoes in East Texas along with Arapaho United Methodist Church of Richardson and brought back about 1000 lbs of sweet potatoes to be distributed among the individuals in need in Dallas area.

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? First 911 Anniversary Prayer Vigil

Participated in organizing 911-prayer vigil on September 10, 2002 along with several churches, synagogues and temples in the Dallas area. Please, see the attached picture.

? Second 911 Anniversary

Held Open Doors; Open Hearts program at Islamic Association of North Texas on the 2nd anniversary of 911. The program was organized to provide information about Islam and Muslims to spread cultural diversity in the Dallas area.

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? Hurricane Relief (Katrina and Rita)

Performed Katrina and Rita hurricanes relief operations in North Texas. Provided immediate shelter, funds, transportation, medical, supplies, Job Assistance, and FEMA registration assistance services to evacuees of Gulf Coast regions of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas. Over 400 individuals were supported through these services. More information could be found at www.dallasrelief.com

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? Planting Aquatic Plants for cleaner environment

Planted aquatic plants at Breckinridge Park in Richardson, Texas along with Arapahoe United Methodist Church. The goal was to clean the pond of the park and put aquatic plants in the water, which resulted cleaner environment and birds' migration.

? Boy Scout

Training of Muslim Boy Scouts to become responsible citizens by participating in the noble projects of Dallas area. Muslim parents of IANT have been staying involved with their Boy Scouts.

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? Habitat for Humanity

Bi-annually participate with Dallas Area Habitat for Humanity since 2002. IANT provides volunteers who provide hard working hours in the construction of homes for low-income families.

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? Take Pledge calls for Public Radio

KERA radio and TV (Public Radio and TV) holds Pledge drives, quarterly and IANT volunteers take pledge calls for the organization. These services have been provided to KERA since 2002.

? IANT facilitates at least 1,500 visitors to the mosque. Tours are given to the visitors along with Q&A session for better understanding. The visitors are from schools, churches and different organizations. Dallas residence enjoys the visits and has providing positive feedback.

? Meet the City Council candidate sessions. IANT provided a platform for city residence to meet the City Council candidates and ask questions. The two sessions were held in 2003 and 2005.

? Thanksgiving Grocery drive. IANT along with Arapaho United Methodist Church held grocery drive in November 2002 to provide non-perishable food items to people in need.

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Appendix 8 - Refugee Assistance

American Islamic Center - Refugee Relief Arm of IANT

American Islamic Center located at the corner of 7402 Greenville Ave & Pineland, in the Old Vickery Park Shopping Center in Dallas, (Across from the Presbyterian Hospital) is home to the Musallah.

American Islamic Center American Islamic Center on Pineland and features the Arriving Refugee

Reception Center (AARC). Over 1000 Muslim refugees live in East Dallas. It is our responsibility as

Muslims to extend to them our support and generosity as they strive to make a fresh start for themselves.

They are from Afghanistan, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Kosovo, Somalia, Sierra Leon, and the Sudan. Some are widows, orphaned children and handicapped individuals, all trying to start a new life.

The latest arrivals are the Somali Bantus. 500 more are expected within the neighborhood of the Musallah. For the past 11 years they have languished in camps along the dangerous Somali-Kenyan

border. Descendants of slaves taken from Tanzania and northern Mozambique in the late nineteenth

century to the southern Somali coast, the Bantu have remained a persecuted minority in Somalia and cannot return to the homes they fled there.

American Islamic Center was opened in May 2003 with the help and support of IANT, Islamic Community Center of North Texas, (ICCNT), and the greater community of North Texas. The

Musallah (pray hall) and AARC serve the Muslim families that are relocated to Dallas, TX.

IANT

and ICCNT are non-profit organizations and work along side the International Rescue Community

and Catholic Charities to help many refugees from countries like Afghanistan, Bosnia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Iran, Kosovo, Somalia, Sierra Leon, and the Sudan.

Every year, 500 Muslim refugees come to north Texas. Most of them are women and children.

AARC strives yearly to provide the needs and daily necessities to these people both financially and

morally.

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Appendix 9 - Medical Clinic open to all

Medical Clinic

In order to make sure everyone gets proper care, an appointment is necessary to see a doctor at the

clinic. Please call 972-231-8451 to make your appointment.

NOTE: During the month of Ramadan, the Clinic will operate on different hours.

Clinic Schedule

Day Hours

Tuesday 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Wednesday 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Sunday 10:00am to 1:00pm

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Appendix 10 School: Religious Studies + Full Public School

Curriculum

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Home About IQA Admissions Staff Schedules News Letter

Principal's Desk Lunch Menu Staff Email Uniforms Documents Class Pages

Address

IANT Quranic Academy

Dallas Central Mosque

840 Abrams Rd

Richardson, TX 75081

Map

Phone

972-231-5698 X103

Fax

972-231-6707

Information Request

iqaadmin@iant.com

Donate

As-Salaamu Alaikum Wa-Rahmatullahi Wa-Barakatahu

(May the Peace, Mercy, and Blessings of God be upon you.)

IQA: Developing the Next Generation of American Muslim Scholars

Offering Hifz, Arabic, and all standard academic subjects for Grades K-8

News & Announcements

? Enrollment Open for 2005-2006: Limited Seats Remain, Enroll at the IQA main office.

? Sept 17, Saturday Classes cancelled due to high volume of participants in the Bridges TV Qiraa competition.

? Sept 19-24: IQA Scholastic Book Fair

? Sept 26, No School. Teacher Workday.

? Sept 27, OPEN HOUSE: Asr to Maghrib (5:45-7:30PM)

Congratulations! 4th Grader, TAHIR AZIZ won 1st place at the national ISNA Quran Competition for Catagory 3!!!

14 Other IQA students made a strong showing through their participation.

May Allah Reward all of them!

Employment Opportunities & Minimum Qualifications:

? Hifz/Qiraa' Instructor: Ijaza in Tajweed is Required, Hifz and Religious sciences preferred.

? Librarian: Bachelors in library science or related training required.

? Fundraising/Grant Coordinator: Business Degree and/or Related Experience

Candidates should send a cover letter and resume to iqaadmin@iant.com

We are always accepting applications for teachers in all subjects including Hifz, Qiraa, Arabic, English, math, science, social studies, and physical education/health for grades K-8. Bachelors Required. Experience and certification preferred. Applicants will be considered for future openings if immediate positions are not available. To find out more, please email us or call 972-231-5693 x102.

IQA Multi-cultural Event

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IQA Multicultural Event

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Appendix 11 - Special Unique Projects:

Conjoined Egyptian Twins & Dallas International Visitors

IAN T Helped the Egyptian conjoined twins thru their surgery and recovery process. This was a major news item in Dallas with a Team of 80 Doctors and Medical Staff from three area hospitals that helped with the surgery process from start to finish. IANT officially recognized and awarded the medical team of 80 doctors and staff in an official gathering for their efforts with this one year PPPprocess

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Office of International

Visitors

Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs

U.S. Department of

State

INTERNATI NAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Mr. Chengzhen GUO from Peoples Republic of China

This visitor is invited to the United States under the auspices of the State Department's

International

Visitor Leadership Program.

State Department Program Officer: Mr. John Anderegg

Program Arrangements by Meridian International Center:

Program officer: Mr. Sherry Bell, 1624 Crescent Place, NW, Washington, District of Columbia 20009; telephone (202) 939-5861 or (202) 939-5561; fax: (202) 667-8980; email:

sbell@meridian.org

Accompanied by: Ms. Diana Li, United States Interpreter

June 11 - July 2, 2005

Peoples Republic of China

Name: Mr. Chengzhen GUO

Present Position: Deputy Director, First Department, State Administration for Religious Affairs

Previous Positions: Director, Islam Division, First Department, State Administration for Religious Affairs

Education/Training: B.A. in History, Capital Normal University, 1981

Publications: One of the editors, China Encyclopedie - Religion Volume and China Islam Encyclopedie

Address: No. 44 Houhaibeiyan, Gulouxi Street, Beijing 100009

Peoples Republic of China

Telephone: 8610-6409-5122

Personal Data: Born December 23, 1954 in Shanghai, Peoples Republic of China

Special Considerations: Has hypertension; does not eat pork.

Languages: Chinese (Mandarin; native), English (poor)

U.S. Travel: No previous U.S. travel

Other Travel: Burma, Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Thailand

Issues to be addressed:

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1. Interfaith relations: how do disparate faith communities reach out to each other, work together? How can civic harmony be maintained among faith groups with disparate value systems, political beliefs, and loyalties. How do Islamic communities in the U.S. relate to secular society and other religions?

2. The diversity, benefits, and challenges of Muslim life in today's America: balancing faith, modernization, assimilation.

3. Faith-based communities' contributions to general social welfare, and government responses within the context of church/state separation (eg, tax code on charitable giving; school vouchers issues). How grassroots organizations benefit and strengthen civic society rather than threaten national stability.

4. Evolution of civil rights in America. Impact on minority communities.

5. Encouraging Islamic values and lifestyles while controlling and counteracting fundamentalism and terrorism (an issue of top concern to Mr. Guo).

6. Buddhists in America.

Program objectives:

Major Themes:

- How U.S. society and government deal with religious, ethnic, and cultural diversity - tools and norms that help manage differences and clashes
- Diversity of Muslim life in today's America.
- Religious freedom and civil rights.
- Absorption and adaptation of immigrants.

Secondary Themes:

- Religious diversity in America;
- Faith-based contributions to social welfare.
- Impact of religion on social policies - education, marriage, criminal penalties, etc.

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From: Roy H. Harrell [<mailto:royhharrell@thanksgiving.org>]

Sent: Friday, September 03, 2004 2:33 PM

To: Adanan Omran; Yusuf Z. Kavakci; Charles LeBlanc; Robert Hunt; Eric White

Subject: INTERNATIONAL VISITORS

My dear friends,

Please forgive this means of sending this information, but with the holiday weekend, time is short.

This has the additional advantage of introducing you to each other. I expect to add a couple more stops to the program including the DISD, the Hare Krishna Temple School, and Temple Emanuel school.

Attached is the general information about this group. Note especially the Program Objectives from

the Department of State (DOS). Note that MERIDIAN is contracted by the DOS to make the travel

arrangements. I will now take each of you in the order of the schedule to confirm our phone conversation.

? Dr. Omran Director, Brighter Horizons Academy

I expect to have the group at your office at 10:00 AM, Friday, September 10. The address is 3145 Medical Plaza

Dr., Garland. We will depart for lunch at approximately 11 AM.

? Dr. Kavakci Imam, Dallas Central Mosque

I will bring the group to the Mosque in time for Prayer at 1:45 PM. At 2:30 PM we will meet with Dr. Moes,

Principal of the Quranic Academy. I understand you have a teacher who is from India. We need to leave at 3:30 PM to meet our next appointment.

? Dr. LeBlanc Director, Catholic Schools Office, Diocese of Dallas

I will bring the group to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School, 7625 Cortland, Dallas at 4:00 PM. I understand

you have 3 Sisters from India teaching there.

? Dr. Hunt Professor, Comparative Religions, Perkins School of Theology

I will have this group at Perkins offices at 10:00 AM, Monday, September 13. As you can see by the objective

regarding Seminaries, you may want to ask Dr. Lawrence to join you, if only to bring greetings. As for the antiquities, I have arranged with Dr. White to meet him at 11:00 AM in Bridwell

? Dr. White Curator, Bridwell Library

The group will be meeting with Dr. Hunt before moving over to the Library to see the documents at 11:00 AM.

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From: Philippe Delvaux [<mailto:delvauxphilippe@yahoo.com>]

Sent: Friday, March 18, 2005 11:20 AM

To: yzk@iant.com

Subject: Visit of VIP delegation from Malaysia

Dr. Kavacki,

I volunteer with the Dallas Committee for International Visitors and was given your email address by Anna Benefiel, Executive Director. I am in the process of organizing a visit for a VIP delegation from Malaysia. More on the delegation below. These visitors are involved in the investigation and prosecution of international financial crimes and are on a study tour sponsored by the US Department of State.

We would like to organize for them a prayer service at the Dallas Central Mosque on Friday March 25 from 1:00pm to 2:30pm followed by a meeting with you if that is convenient. Could you please let me know if this suits you and if you need more information on the visitors, I'd be happy to let you have their biographical profiles and passport numbers.

Thank you very much for your kind help.

Sincerely,

1. Mr. Abu Bakar ABDUL RAHMAN, Manager, Financial Intelligence Unit, Bank Negara Malaysia banking /

investigations

2. Mr. Lourdes Joseph CHARLES, Assistant News Editor, The Star Publication - investigative journalist

3. Ms. Swandra Kim Chu RAMACHANDRAN, Senior Federal Counsel, International Affairs Division, Attorney General's Chambers, Malaysia government official

Philippe Delvaux

2508 Carroll Court

Flower Mound, TX 75022

Cell: 940-594-1739

delvauxphilippe@yahoo.com

Home: 972-691-7910

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-----Original Message-----

From: Europe [<mailto:Europe@dallasworld.org>]

Sent: Tuesday, September 20, 2005 4:53 PM

To: Jamal A. Gharbieh; yzk@iant.com

Cc: Anna Benefiel

Subject: Official Request

Dear Dr. Kavakci and Mr. Gharbieh,

Thank you very much for the contacts you provided us for the African-American Muslim community. I will be contacting those individuals in the next few days. As Anna mentioned, we like to include your community in the upcoming visit of the Malian delegation studying "Islam in the US". The four visitors are Muslim religious leaders interested in studying the role of national and local Muslim-American organizations and mosques in American society. Ideally we would like the delegation to spend Friday afternoon/evening,

October 7, with your mosque. The proposed schedule is:

Friday, October 7

1:00-2:00pm Friday Afternoon Prayers at Dallas Central Mosque

2:00-3:00pm Delegation meeting with Dr. Kavakci and Mr. Gharbieh at Dallas Central Mosque

3:30-5:00pm Delegation meeting with Dr. Omran at Brighter Horizons Academy

5:30-8:30pm Delegation returns to Dallas Central Mosque for the breaking of Fast

The four Malian leaders on this project do not speak English, but will be accompanied by an two interpreters to

facilitate conversation and logistics. The delegates are official State Department guests, participating in the

"International Visitor Leadership Program," which fosters mutual understanding through professional and cultural exchange.

The visitors are:

- 1.) Mr. Oumar BARRO Director, Mosque in Legal-Segou (Kayes)
- 2.) Mr. Aboubacar CAMARA Director, Madrasa Mahd Al Ouloum
- 3.) Mr. Dramane Moulaye HAIDARA Deputy Imam, Mosque of Sarakeina (Timbuktu)
- 4.) Mr. Souaibou SANOGO Imam, Mosque of Lafiabougou (Sikasso)
- 5.) Mr. Mohammed SMADI Interpreter
- 6.) Mr. Raad Fanari Interpreter
- 7.) Ms. Lesley Newton Sending Agency Program Officer
- 8.) Ms. Nancy Tourk Dallas Host and Intern Program Director

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The total group size is eight (8). More detail on the visitors and their topics of study is attached, with detailed

biographic information and an elaboration on project themes.

Along with their focus on religious organizations, this delegation is studying the role of religion in the political,

social and economic life of the U.S. We love to hear the perspectives of your members on these various topics.

Dr. Kavakci and Mr. Gharbieh, please feel free to contact me to discuss this project further at your

convenience. I'm accessible via email or phone - europa@dallasworld.org or 214-965-8416. You are also

welcome to speak with Anna Benefiel, via either ABenefiel@dallasworld.org or 214-965-8403. I thank you, on behalf of the U.S. Department of State, the Dallas Committee for International Visitors, and the

World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas for your consideration of the opportunity to help host our important international guests. I look forward to hearing from and working with you.

With Best Regards,

Nancy Tourk

Intern,

Dallas Committee for International Visitors

europa@DallasWorld.org

(214) 965-8416

www.dallasworld.org/dciv

World Affairs Council of Greater Dallas

325 North St. Paul Street, Suite 2200

Dallas, TX 75201 USA

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Appendix 12 - Traditional Islamic Sciences Studies

Suffa Academy

Suffa Academy is a new Traditional Islamic Sciences school for all ages established at Islamic Association of North Texas. Classes will be taught every semester by Imam Yusuf Kavakci. The name comes from Ashab (Ahl) al-Suffa.

"Al-Suffa" was the first Islamic School in the history of Islam. Its teacher was no other than our own

beloved Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). Its students, "Ahl-Suffa" were known to have given up worldly desires and were in a perpetual state of learning their deen. This school was in our beloved

Prophet's masjid in Medina.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to train teenagers and adults in the traditional Sciences of Islam with the intention of

accrediting classes, taught by certified scholars, in order to accumulate & increase the level of knowledge of scholarly Islam in our youth, adults and community at large; an Islam based on the Book and real understanding of Sunnah as understood by the Ulama of our Ummah.

Teachers [Back to top]

Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci

Imam Moujahed Bakhach

Br. Khalid Qureshi

Curriculum [Back to top]

We will publish a complete curriculum for Suffa Academy soon inshaAllah. In the interim, following is a list of courses we intend to offer at Suffa Academy in upcoming semesters.

Courses

offered during one semester may be pre-requisite to the next semester. Courses will follow one or more text and students are encouraged to buy these (on their own). Class notes may be provided at

a minimal cost & tests will be given at the end of each class. 1. Foundation Of Islamic Sciences

2. Ta'leem Muta'allam

3. Methodologies

4. Aqidah (Fiqh Al Akbar, Aqidah Tahawia, Aqidah Nasafiyah)

5. Fiqh

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6. Tajweed

7. Arabic

8. Usul-ul-hadith

9. Tafsir

Accreditation [Back to top]

We intend to provide accreditation from a renowned Islamic University and credit hours from local

American Universities.

We are looking into this and will inform everyone soon insha'Allah.

Location [Back to top]

Classes will be held in Classrooms 3 & 4 behind the main prayer hall at IANT.

Contact [Back to top]

For more information, contact Moazzam Ahmed at

moazzam.ahmed@muslim-calendar.com

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Fall 2005

Semester start date moved to Sep 17th

due to Katrina Relief Activities in the mertoplex

September 17th - December 3rd

with a 2 week break for end of Ramadan & Eid

Course Catalog

1. Aqeeda (Creed)

2. Fiqh & Current Issues

3. Tajweed

You may still take last semesters finals online and join this semester.

Cost for first class is \$25. Each additional class is only \$15. Cost includes course material if any.

1. Aqeeda (This class is a pre-requisite for spring 2006)

Imam Moujahed Bakahash

TA: TBA

35 students max.

Duration & Timing: Sep 17th - Dec 3rd, Saturdays 9:30 - 11:00 am

This class will be held upstairs in Room #12.

Pre-requisite: Both classes from Summer 2005. Click here for information on taking Summer

2005

Finals.

Cost: \$25

Registration: Register Now

Text: The Fundamentals of Islamic Creed (Imam Tahawi)

by Abu Ja'fer Ahmad Salamah al-Azadi 'al-Tahewi

Course Description:

1- Tawheeds with its categories :Ar-rububiyyah, al-uluhiyyah and al-asmaa' was-sifaat.

2- diffrent between: nabi & rasul,

3- false prophets,

4- kalamul-llaah ta'ala.

5- al-jahmiyah, al-mu'tazilah, and other groups or Firqah assisting myself with the other two books:

Al-farqu-baynal-firqah written by al-Isfara'ini, and al-milal wan-nihal, ash-shuhrustrani.

Class Notes: (Right click and choose "Save Target As")

JazakAllah khair to sister Jamila for recording these.

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Sep 17th

Oct 1st

Oct 8th

Oct 15th

Take the Final: In December

2. Fiqh & Current Issues

Dr. Yusuf Ziya Kavakci

TA: TBA

35 students max.

Duration & Timing: Sep 18th - Dec 4th, Sundays after dhuhr

Pre-requisite: Both classes from Summer 2005. Click here for information on taking Summer 2005

Finals.

Cost: \$25

Registration Register Now

Text: Notes and handouts by Imam Yusuf

Course Description: Fiqh, definition, Branches of Fiqh: Furu', Usul, fatwa, Khilafiyat, Comparative

Fiqh, Ahamm a-Qur'an, al-Ahadith, tabaqat, etc. Mufti, Ifta, Islamic Court, Sijil lil mahakim al-Shar'iyya. Fiqh Councils, OIC, Saudi, Egypt, Diyanet. Modern times: Codification of Fiqh, Ottoman

Majalla, Egypt Qadri Basha, Sanhoury Basha, Muslim Countries and Codification. Modern Turkey.

Some Current Issues: Democracy, citizenship, how to apply Islam as minorities. Nikah and talaq, American Court decisions. Fiqh of minorities. Islamic Research Academy.

Class Notes: (Right click and choose "Save Target As")

JazakAllah khair to sister Jamila for recording these.

Sep 18th

Oct 2nd

Oct 9th

Oct 16th

Take the Final: In December

3. Tajweed

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Br. Khalid Qureshi

TA: None

20 students max.

Duration & Timing: Sep 18th - Dec 3rd, Sunday 4:00 pm - 5:15.

Pre-requisite:

1. Be able to recognize & read all Arabic alphabets AND read Quran fluently.

2. Both classes from Summer 2005. Click here for information on taking Summer 2005 Finals.

Cost: \$25

Registration Register Now

Text: TBA

Course Description: More Information will follow soon.

Class Notes: None for this class.

Take the Final: In December

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Appendix 13 - General Comments/Advice to Members

Safety Tips

20 September 2001

Operations Manager

Memo for Muslims of Dallas Central Mosque

Subject: General Security

RULES: Do not park in north and east parking lot when the cones are blocking.

Phone numbers:

POLICE PROTECTION: The Richardson Police have been extraordinary. They continue to serve us

in an outstanding manner. When you see policemen, tell them thanks for the excellent job they are

doing for our community.

ANY EMERGENCY: Dial 911

Dallas Central Mosque: 972.231.5698

Dallas Police: 214.744.4444

Richardson Police: 972.744.4800

Sister's Safety Tips

24 Safety Tips for Muslim Women

By Samana Siddiqui

As Muslims and their institutions become targets of harassment in the wake of the September 11 terrorist attack, Muslim women, especially those who dress Islamically, have become major targets.

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Reports of Muslim women being yelled at, threatened, having their Hijabs pulled off and having

guns pointed at them have surfaced. It is necessary that the whole community rally to defend Muslim women. But sisters also have to take personal precautions when they go outside. Like it or not, they will be targets.

Here are some safety tips for sisters:

1. Always be aware of your surroundings

This applies whether you are traveling alone or in groups. Don't just focus inwardly on your thoughts if you are alone, or your friends if you are together. Keep one eye out for your environment, looking out for suspicious characters, possible danger, etc.

Also, don't assume that because your area has been "safe" thus far, that it will continue to be so.

2. Travel in groups

"There is safety in numbers" is not just a cliché. It's true. Make a point of traveling together with other sisters, whether it's on public transportation, on campus, in cars, etc.

3. Change the route you normally travel by

If you've taken the same bus, train or highway to get to work or school, change your route. Even if it

takes you a little longer, your safety is more important. By changing your route, you can avert possible attacks or harassment from those who know your schedule, method and route of travel well. Please note though that you should avoid short cuts that take you through unfamiliar or unsafe areas.

4. Look confident

Walk with a straight posture and your arms swinging by your sides. Avoid slouching or walking like a victim. This makes you an easy target for attackers.

5. When riding by public transportation choose the right seat

If you are riding by bus or train, do not sit on the window seat as you may be "blocked in" by a potential assailant. Always select the seat next to the aisle so that you can quickly leave if necessary.

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If you are taking public transportation alone after peak hours, sit as close to the driver as possible and/or choose the section of the bus/train that is most crowded. Try to get a seat near the exit as well.

6. If you are driving alone

Don't think that if you are in a car, you're safe. Windows should be up and doors locked even when

driving to avoid unwanted passengers at intersections. When you are walking to your car, always have your keys ready, so that you can quickly get into your car.

But don't just get in right away. Always check your car before entering, especially the back, for any intruders.

7. Never leave your car door unlocked

Even if it means for one minute to drop something off in the mailbox that's a few feet away. Attackers have been known to lie in wait for such an opportunity.

8. Be careful in parking lots

Always be alert in parking lots, especially when it's dark. Ask someone to escort you to your car. Between cars and inside cars, it's easy for someone to hide and wait until an unalert person comes

along.

9. If you are traveling by taxi

Always check the identification of the driver (usually located near the visor) and ensure that it matches the driver. Once inside, don't sit behind the driver, as it may be easy for the driver to lock

the rear passenger door. Always choose the adjacent seat.

In addition, avoid flagging taxis. Always order taxis so the driver can be traced if something happens.

10. Don't use the Walkman

If you're used to listening to your Walkman while outside, drop this habit, especially in isolated areas. With your Walkman on, you cannot hear the approach of a possible attacker.

11. Note "safe houses" along your route

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Mentally note houses at intervals on each route you take that can be used as "safe houses" if you are

attacked, such as shops or houses that you know to be occupied by a friend or acquaintance.

12. When you make a call from a phone booth

After dialing the number you wish to call always turn around so that you have your back to the phone and may see who or what is coming your way. You will then be able to tell the person to whom you are speaking that you may be in trouble and you may be able to use the weight of the phone as a weapon. The door of a telephone box could be used to wedge in the limbs of the attacker.

13. Do not open the door of your home without checking

DO NOT open the door to your home without first checking from a window, peephole or by asking

and verifying who it is. Instruct children to do the same.

14. Report any suspicious activity around your home

If you see people loitering on the streets near your house, call the police on a non-emergency number and report it.

15. Invest in a cell phone

This is an invaluable safety device. Keep it with you at all times and keep emergency numbers on it.

Also, keep it next to your bed before you go to bed at night. Cell phones were first popularized by

women as a security device, business people came later.

16. Parking tips

Avoid parking in areas that are not well lit. Where possible, park close to a school or work entrance

or in parking garage that has an attendant.

If you see a suspicious person approaching or hanging around near your parked car, turn around and go back to an area where there are other people. Try to get an escort to your car through the campus or job security or local police.

17. Tell others about your whereabouts

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Parents, spouses and friends should know where you are going and when you will be back, so that

your absence will be noticed. Arrange a call in system with a friend if you live alone, whereby you call when you arrive home.

18. Trust your instincts

If you are walking somewhere and feel strange or scared, don't ignore this feeling. Take extra precautions by walking a little faster to get to a more populated or well-lit area or change the route you've been driving on.

19. If you think you are being followed, change your route and activity.

You can cross the street, change directions, or enter a populated building or store. Do whatever is necessary to avoid being alone with the person who is following you. Inform a police officer or security official about the follower.

20. Attract attention if you are in a dangerous situation.

Get others' to pay attention to what's happening to you if you are under attack or being harassed. You can alert others by honking a car horn or loudly describing what is happening.

21. NEVER admit that you are alone

If someone calls your home and asks if you are alone, NEVER admit it. Ask who the caller is. If they refuse to identify themselves, calmly hang-up. Keep the radio on in the house so that callers will get the impression that others are in the home too. Instruct children to do the same when they pick up the phone.

22. Obscene phone calls

If you receive an obscene call or a crank call, do not talk to the caller. Hang up if the caller doesn't say anything, or as soon as s/he shouts obscenities. Hang up the phone calmly and do not slam it down. Note down the date and time of the calls. If they are persistent, inform local police.

23. If you are a student

Avoid studying in isolated classrooms in parts of the college campus that are not regularly patrolled by the school's security officers.

24. In large buildings take the elevator, not the stairwell

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Stairwells are usually quiet and dark. Most people take the elevator. But if someone creepy gets on, don't hesitate to get off at the same time. Or, if someone is already on the elevator who you feel strange about, do not get on and wait for the next elevator.

More Tips For Men And Women:

If you are traveling, make sure that you gas up your car during the day at a gas station where you are well known and are confident that the attendants are friendly towards you. Also, insure that you have enough gas in your tank to prevent you from having to stop in a potentially hostile rural or suburban area. If your car is in poor condition, don't trust it for a long trip where it might breakdown in an isolated area.

If you live in an urban area and frequently walk to work or to shop, avoid walking alone, as

much as

possible, or through loitering crowds. Also, avoid walking through potentially hostile neighborhoods, even if it means taking a longer route.

Initiate a local emergency phone call-up roster. In an attack on the local Mosque, or at the home of

an area Muslims, other believers can be notified immediately and peacefully respond to the situation with some significant numbers.

Married couples should schedule random visits to the homes of single mothers and sisters. Such visits help to boost the morale of our sisters and to discourage attacks by those parties who think that they have no viable support network.

On campuses Muslim brothers should organize escort services for Muslim sisters who find themselves having to traverse great distances on foot, alone after dark. If sisters are driving, they should be escorted to their cars. A central phone number can be dispensed at the weekly MSA meeting. Of course such services should be undertaken with strict observance of Islamic decorum,

preferably two brothers should escort a single sister. Believers should generally try to avoid being

out at night, especially the sisters.

The Masjids should not be abandoned. Many people are staying away from the Masjids because of

threats of violence. However, in many instances the Masjids have been attacked because they are abandoned. If a severe threat exists, local police can be alerted to provide coverage at prayer times.

We know of at least one Masjid that has hired a security company to guard the premises, 24/7.

All

of the community's members should have a list of police and fire department emergency hotlines.