

*The Henna Touch*  
www.TheHennaTouch.com  
Specializing in Henna and Gift  
Designs for all Occasions!  
(613)863-0237

# MUSLIM LINK

## Ottawa's Community Newspaper

**UMRAH**  
Gold Package  
Silver Package  
Bronze Package  
Book Online: www.bookumrah.ca  
1-866-982-UMRA  
Tel: 416-491-5314

July 2008 - Rajab 1429

www.MuslimLink.ca

Volume 6 ~ Issue 7

## World's top 10 intellectuals are all Muslims

Yahya Abdul Rahman

The July / August edition of the bimonthly U.S. international affairs journal *Foreign Policy* has just published a survey of the world's top 20 public intellectuals and the first 10, including three Nobel laureates, are all Muslims.

In its earlier May / June 2008 issue, *ForeignPolicy.com* named the world's top 100 public intellectuals and then asked readers to vote for those they deem most deserving of the top honors. During nearly four weeks of voting, more than 500,000 people logged into the website to cast ballots for who they thought would be the world's top public intellectual.

Topping the list is Turkish Islamic scholar, writer, and leader of the Gülen movement, Fethullah Gülen. The author of over 60 books, Mr. Gülen, 67, heads a network of schools and media and has lived in the US since 1998. He is highly revered by millions of Muslims in Turkey but is seen as a threat by Turkey's

World's top public intellectuals:  
Heralding a new spring in Islamic thought?



Online voters from around the world chose ten Muslims as the world's foremost public intellectuals in a poll by *Foreign Policy* magazine.

secular political establishment. He is well known for possessing a reputation as a Muslim who preaches tolerance and engagement with other faiths.

Nobel laureate and Bangladeshi economist Muhammad Yunus came in

second on the list. He is recognized for his work of establishing a microcredit project in his native country run by his Grameen Bank. Nicknamed the "banker to the poor," Dr. Yunus started his

*Continued on page 2*

### What's inside:

Diverse media .....	4
Renewable energy.....	5
Bottled water uncapped....	6
P.S. on polygamy .....	8
Kids World .....	10
Marriage advice.....	13
Events.....	14

## Sisters hold mosque fundraiser

Sakina Bint Erik

A multilingual fundraiser held in Hull in mid-June featured an array of stimulating thought, inspiring *nasheed* (Islamic songs), food and an auction. If you weren't there it was either because you were denied a wonderful outing, or because you are a man; it was an event held for sisters, by sisters.

Aptly named "Windows to the Future, Doors to Paradise", proceeds from the event will go towards paying for the windows and the doors of the new Outaouais Islamic Centre. In a show of teamwork, the community agreed that the women will raise money for those particular components while the men will raise money to pay for the bricks.

The event was held in the Tetreau Community Centre in Hull. It opened

*Continued on page 2*

## Gatineau mosque nears completion

Building boom:

Part one of an in-depth series on mosque construction in the region

Sakina bint Erik

With the thawing of the soil, comes the breaking of the earth. These days, the capital region's new mosque projects are the reason for much breaking ground.

Four mosque construction projects are currently under way in all corners of the Ottawa area: Jami Omar in Bell Corners to the west, Assunah Muslim

Association's mosque to the south, Bilal Masjid to the east, and the Outaouais Islamic Centre in Hull, across the river in Quebec. Progress is steady as each group strives to raise funds for these much-needed additions to their respective communities.

This is the first of a series of articles that will showcase each project in turn. This time we go across the provincial

border (and a bridge) to discuss the progress in Gatineau/Hull.

With a community of over four thousand Muslims, the Gatineau/Hull area of the city had but one small place for prayer. Said to be a room just large enough for about 75 worshippers, the musallah was simply not big enough. In

*Continued on page 2*



**Shawarma STATION**  
Lebanese Restaurant  
It's all about **the food!**

**(613) 737-2121**  
2446 Bank Street, Ottawa  
www.shawarmastation.com

	
<b>2 Shawarma Platters</b>	<b>2 Shawarma Sandwiches</b>
<b>\$13.99</b>	<b>\$6.49</b>
	
<b>12 Meat Pies</b>	<b>Whole Chicken</b>
<b>\$12.99</b>	<b>\$10.99</b>



## Voters choose intellectuals with diverse viewpoints

Continued from Cover Page

movement 30 years ago with a \$27 loan to women in Chittagong, Bangladesh. It has mushroomed and delivered millions of tiny loans to poor people who do not have access to mainstream banking. His latest book "Creating a World Without Poverty: Social Business and the Future of Capitalism", outlines his vision of poverty alleviation as well as a quest for a more humane world.

Others on the list include prominent Muslim scholar Youssef al-Qaradawi, who came in third on the list. He is a regular presence on the satellite channel *Al Jazeera* and has authored many books on Islam. He is revered by millions of Muslims worldwide as being a top Islamic scholar who Muslims look to for religious opinions on a variety of issues.

Ranking in at number four is Turkish novelist and political pundit Orhan Pamuk. He is a professor of comparative literature at Columbia University, and is one of Turkey's most prominent novelists with his works being translated into more than fifty languages. Mr. Pamuk is also a recipient of numerous national and international literary awards including a Nobel Prize in literature in 2006.

Aitzaz Ahsan, who is the President of Pakistan's Supreme Court Bar Association and a vocal opponent of President Pervez Musharraf's rule, came in fifth on the list. When President Musharraf dismissed the head of the Supreme Court in March 2007, it was Ahsan who led the legal challenge to reinstate the chief justice and rallied thousands of lawyers who took to the streets in protest.

The sixth person on the list is Amr Khaled, a popular Egyptian television preacher, while Abdolkarim Sorush, an Iranian reformist theologian, came in at number seven and Islamic philosopher Tariq Ramadan came in at number eight.

Ninth and tenth places went to Ugandan-born cultural anthropologist and Columbia University Professor Mahmood Mamdani and Shirin Ebadi, the Iranian human rights lawyer who won the 2003 Nobel Peace Prize.

Online: <http://www.foreignpolicy.com> ■

## \$600,000 still needed for mosque

Continued from Cover Page

2003 the Muslims in the region gathered together to form the OIC, the Outaouais Islamic Centre, with their first order of business to build a new mosque.

City officials were helpful in the search for land. After preparing the architectural designs, obtaining the construction permit and gaining charity status, work started in earnest in August 2006. In terms of funding, all that the OIC has achieved has been through local contributors from the Ottawa-Gatineau region. Now that the construction of the mosque is almost complete, the community came up with an innovative idea to raise the remaining funds; the women would fundraise to purchase the windows and doors, and the men would do their part to pay for the bricks.

"The idea was to allow people to contribute to a well determined part of the mosque. This will create some emotional attachment to the institution," said Abdellah Sebbar, manager of the OIC project, in an interview with *Muslim Link*. That idea gave way to the beautiful and clever name of the sisters' recent fundraiser, "Windows to the Future, Doors to Paradise". The windows are among the final elements needed to complete the building.

The building project in Gatineau consists of two parts: the mosque area and a community centre that is independent from the mosque. The centre has its own entrance and will be used for meetings, conferences and

community events. It will have its own scheduling, run independently from the mosque. The mosque is near completion, but construction on the community centre is ongoing.

The OIC expects the mosque to be ready by August 2008, *Insha'Allah* (God willing). Once it is ready, all the current programs taking place in the musallah, as well as those happening beyond its walls, will be brought together under the new roof of the mosque, including a current Arabic class which runs on Saturdays for youth and adults, *tajweed* lessons and Quran memorization. With the ample space of the new *masjid* and the community centre, "all kinds of events, be [they] social or intellectual that can benefit the community and the image of Muslims will take place," said Mr. Sebbar.

A regular feature of this line of updates is also a humble request for financial support from the communities that support these mosque projects. Although the OIC has nearly finished the mosque, it hasn't completed paying the contractor. According to the contract, he will finish construction by Ramadan of this year. The OIC's goal is to overcome a debt of over \$600 thousand dollars.



Photo Credit: Outaouais Islamic Centre  
Construction progresses on the new mosque in Gatineau.

"Our hope is that the community stands by our side until we finish this noble project," says Mr. Sebbar.

For more on the sisters' fundraising efforts, see below. ■

To donate to the mosque project, please send a cheque to:

The Outaouais Islamic Centre  
C.P. 79026  
Gatineau Quebec  
J8Y 6V2

## Sisters raise funds for Gatineau mosque

Continued from Cover Page

with the delightful melodies of an Inshaad group from Montreal called *Ar-Rayyan*. The house was packed with women, who were also treated with speeches from Dr. Ekram Beshir, well-known for her expertise in *tarbiyah* (child-rearing), as well as Dr. Aisha Sherazi, a community activist and former school principal.

Dr. Beshir spoke on the importance of treating our young men and women with dignity; that treating the youth in this way inspires them to take their roles in the family and the community seriously. Both Arabic and English-speaking sisters nodded along in agreement as Dr. Beshir spoke in both languages during her talk.

More inspiration followed with Dr. Sherazi's reminder of the importance of Muslim women in building societies. She used the examples of Barakah,

also known as Um Ayman, one of the Companions of the Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him, to illustrate her point. Um Ayman, recalled Dr. Sherazi, was supportive and helpful to the Muslim community in Mecca, and also in Madinah after *hijrah* (migration).

Dr. Sherazi also pointed to a more contemporary example: Hilwie Hamdon of Edmonton, Alberta who was instrumental in the building of the first mosque in her city. Dr. Sherazi explained that both women did not have a high level of education, nor were they rich, but they both were dedicated to God and their community.

Following her presentation, Shelina

'Whoever builds a masjid seeking therewith the countenance of Allah, Allah will build him a house in Paradise.'

— Prophet Muhammad, may peace be upon him

Merani, MC for the evening, provided an update on the Outaouais Islamic Centre. She told the attentive audience about the design features, its present construction and what is now required.

Cash pledges were taken from the audience by an energetic Sister Taysir Ayadi who urged the women present to make the most of the gathering to benefit the Centre's construction. An auction for clothes, scarves and jewelry followed.

The sisters ran a successful event, one which will help buy windows and doors for a house of worship in this world and, hopefully, earn each of them their own home in Paradise. ■

**MUSLIM LINK**  
Ottawa's Community Newspaper  
1 Stafford Rd. Suite 255, Ottawa, ON K2H 1B9  
[www.muslimlink.ca](http://www.muslimlink.ca) | [info@muslimlink.ca](mailto:info@muslimlink.ca)

Editor-in-Chief: [chief@muslimlink.ca](mailto:chief@muslimlink.ca)  
Advertising Inquiries: [sales@muslimlink.ca](mailto:sales@muslimlink.ca) - 613.261.5225  
Letters to the Editor: [letters@muslimlink.ca](mailto:letters@muslimlink.ca)  
Volunteer Writers & Editors: [chief@muslimlink.ca](mailto:chief@muslimlink.ca)

Mohamoud Adam, Farhia Ahmed, Farah Aw-Osman, Zenab Bagha, Sakina Bint Erik, Mohammad Dourou, Amira Elghawaby, Aly Hiny, Ahmad Luqman, Omar Mahfoudhi, Zahira Mauthoor, Sara Mujahid, Yahya Abdul Rahman, Moustapha Rahman, Faaizah Salahuddin, Shehnaaz Toorawa, Muhammed Zaman, Tariq Zein

Special thanks to the Dominion Newspaper.

The views and opinions expressed in this newspaper are strictly those of the author and do not necessarily represent the view of the Muslim Link or any member thereof. Advertising in the Muslim Link does not necessarily imply endorsement. The advertiser agrees that the publisher shall not be liable for damages arising out of errors in advertisements beyond the amount charged for the space actually occupied by that portion of the advertisement in which the error occurred, whether such error is due to negligence of its servants or otherwise. The Publisher reserves the right to edit, revise, or reject any advertisement. All content and advertisements cannot be reproduced in any form without the permission of the Muslim Link.

Published monthly by

**eyemedia**  
SOLUTIONS



Please Recycle