



# AMAN

AMERICAN MUSLIM ADVOCACY NETWORK

*Empowering Muslims, Bridging Communities, Advancing Peace*

## Time for Unity and Purpose

**Khushtar Noorani**

*President, AMAN*

In every generation, there comes a moment when communities must organize themselves with clarity and purpose. For Muslims in America, that moment is now. At a time when confusion, division, and uncertainty are growing, the need for thoughtful guidance and responsible leadership has become more urgent than ever. Across this country, many of our imams and scholars carry a tradition rooted in spirituality, balance, and service. Yet, despite their presence, there has long been a need for a unified platform that can bring their voices together and channel their efforts toward a shared vision. It is from this need that the American Muslims Advocacy Network (AMAN) has emerged.

AMAN is not simply an organization; it is a collective effort to strengthen a community that is both deeply rooted in its faith and actively engaged in the society around it. Our goal is to preserve Islamic values while preparing the next generation

to navigate modern challenges with confidence and integrity. We believe that faith and civic responsibility go hand in hand, and that Muslims in America have a unique opportunity to contribute positively while remaining true to their identity. At its core, AMAN seeks to cultivate a sense of responsibility toward our faith, our communities, and the society we are part of.

Through its various initiatives, AMAN works to support scholars, empower youth, uplift families, and build meaningful relationships with people of other faiths. Our faith teaches us to stand for justice, to build bridges, and to serve humanity. This effort is not limited to an organization; it is a shared responsibility that calls for the participation of every conscious member of our community.

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**PUBLISHER:** Mohammad Sajjad Raza, American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN)

**AMAN NEWSLETTER** is a monthly publication of the American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN), 929 Coney Island Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11230  
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# AMAN ACTIVITIES

## AMAN's First Fiqhi Seminar on Moon Sighting



The American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN) successfully organized its first scholarly Fiqhi seminar online, marking an important milestone in strengthening academic and juristic dialogue within the organization. The seminar was conducted under the supervision of Mufti Manzar Ul Islam Al-Azhari, Head Mufti of AMAN's American Fatwa Council.

The program brought together distinguished scholars, Muftis, and Imams for an in-depth discussion on the Shari'ah principles of moon sighting (Ru'yat al-Hilal). More than twenty-five Imams actively participated, contributing to a meaningful and scholarly exchange of ideas.

During the session, several participants presented research papers and detailed juristic viewpoints. These discussions explored both the classical foundations of moon sighting in Islamic jurisprudence and the contemporary challenges faced by Muslim communities today, including the role of astronomical data.

A central focus of the seminar was to develop a clearer understanding of Shari'ah perspectives, enabling Imams to thoughtfully evaluate differing juristic opinions and practical approaches adopted across the Muslim world.

This seminar proved to be highly beneficial in clarifying key issues related to moon sighting and offered valuable guidance for Imams engaged in community leadership and religious decision-making.

## AMAN Fundraising Dinner Palm Beach, Florida



The American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN) hosted a successful Fundraising Iftar & Dinner at the Indian Spring Country Club in Palm Beach, Florida. Held under the theme "Serving Beyond the Walls – Where Vision Meets Responsibility," the event reflected AMAN's commitment to community service and meaningful engagement with broader society.

The gathering brought together approximately 200 community members, including professionals, leaders, and families, creating a warm, dignified, and purpose-driven atmosphere marked by unity and strong community engagement.



The program was hosted by Dr. Khushtar Noorani, Founder and President of AMAN, who emphasized unity, leadership, and collective responsibility. Mufti Sajjad Madani, Chairman of AMAN, delivered the welcome address, highlighting the organization's mission, achievements, and future vision. Syed Hamza shared an inspiring message on the importance of investing in youth development.

A key highlight of the evening was Dr. Noorani's presentation, addressing contemporary challenges facing Muslim Americans and introducing AMAN as a structured initiative focused on long-term community development and leadership.

The community response was overwhelmingly positive, with generous contributions and pledges supporting AMAN's ongoing programs and future initiatives. The event concluded with gratitude, reflecting a shared commitment to service, unity, and a stronger future.

## Strengthening Voices Nationwide AMAN's Friday Khutbah Initiative Expands Its Reach



As part of its strategic vision, the American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN) has been consistently providing a weekly Friday sermon (Khutbah) to Imams affiliated with its National Imam Council, in both Urdu and English. This initiative has proven to be highly impactful, supporting Imams and benefiting congregations across the United States.

Each week, the Khutbah is thoughtfully prepared and shared in advance, enabling Imams to deliver a unified, relevant, and well-structured message during Jumu'ah prayers. Over time, this service has gained wide appreciation, with many Imams now regularly relying on and looking forward to these weekly sermons.

During the past month, all four Friday sermons focused on themes related to the spirit and objectives of Ramadan. These included spiritual growth, self-discipline, compassion for humanity, and strengthening one's relationship with Allah. As a result, these messages reached diverse congregations across multiple communities, ensuring consistency and depth in Friday preaching.

Continuing this momentum, last week's Khutbah addressed the timely and thought-provoking theme, "From Victimhood to Responsibility: Reclaiming the Strength of the Ummah." The sermon was delivered by more than fifty Imams across ten states in their respective mosques, reflecting the growing reach and influence of AMAN's National Imam Council.

This ongoing initiative is playing a vital role in promoting balanced, constructive, and forward-looking religious guidance, while strengthening the collective voice and impact of Imams nationwide.

# A Unified Beginning

## AMAN's Decision Guides Ramadan Across 250 Mosques

In a significant development ahead of Ramadan 2026, the American Fatwa Council of the American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN) issued a well-considered decision regarding the beginning of the holy month, bringing clarity to Muslim communities across the United States.

Astronomical data had already indicated that the Ramadan crescent would not be visible anywhere in the world on the expected date. At the same time, it was anticipated that Saudi Arabia might announce the start of Ramadan on Wednesday, potentially leading to differences within the global Muslim community.

In response, AMAN's American Fatwa Council convened an emergency meeting with more than thirty Imams from the National Imam Council participating. During the session, scholars carefully examined both scientific data and established principles of Islamic jurisprudence related to moon sighting.



Following detailed deliberations, the council collectively decided that Ramadan fasting would begin on Thursday. The council reaffirmed that in the absence of any verified moon sighting anywhere in the world, such announcements cannot be accepted. However, credible reports from regions where visibility is scientifically possible would be honored.

The announcement quickly gained wide acceptance, with nearly 250 mosques aligning with AMAN's guidance. This moment marked a notable achievement, strengthening confidence in AMAN's leadership and its commitment to unity, scholarship, and responsible religious guidance.

# ASK THE MUFTI

Manzarul Islam al Azhari  
Head Mufti: AMAN's American Fatwa Council  
azhari@amanusa.org

## QUESTIONS:

As Salaam alaikum Mufti Manzar ul Islam Sahab!

My name is Salman Ghaffar. I am a resident of Apex, NC, and a member of the Islamic Center of Morrisville. I have three questions for which I would like to get a fatwa.

1. Is it permissible to keep your money in a savings or money market account and receive interest while living in the United States?
2. It is allowed to have life insurance.
3. If someone bought land for 400,000 and built a house for 1,000,000 (one million). The total cost is 1,400,000. The market value of the house is now 1,600,000. (If I sold in the open market)

If someone says, I am collecting donations/zakat, and I will give this house to a needy person, and he is collecting 2 million for this house, although the market value of the house is only 1,600,000, is it ok for the seller to ask for an extra 400,000?

## ANSWERS:

All praise is due to Allah, the Most Gracious and Most Merciful.

Based on your description, the answers are listed below:

### Answer:1

Jurists have debated the issue of keeping money in savings accounts and earning interest on it. Some jurists do not permit benefits derived from interest. However, Imam Abū Ḥanīfa (d. 150) allows such benefits, as he does not consider them to be interest. According to him, the reason is that Muslims are dealing with non-Muslim banks, which voluntarily provide benefits to account holders. Muslims do not require banks to offer interest-based benefits. Therefore, such benefits are permissible for Muslims. Furthermore, since the Western world is governed by non-Muslim rulers, there is no harm in

benefiting from their system. The well-known Hanafi Jurist Burhān al Dīn al Mīr Ghīnānī (d. 593) says:

وَلَا بَيْنَ الْمُسْلِمِ وَالْحَرْبِيِّ فِي دَارِ الْحَرْبِ

There is no interest between Muslims and non-Muslims in a non-Muslim country. (Fath al Qadīr, vol. 7:38, chapter)

Thus, keeping money in the savings account and receiving the benefits from it is permissible.

### Answer:2

Similar debates have occurred among jurists regarding life insurance. Some scholars do not permit life insurance because they consider it usury (Ribā) or gambling (Qimār). However, another group of jurists allows life insurance on the condition that the policyholder can pay the required premiums. If the policyholder can maintain these payments, they are allowed to hold the policy.

The reason for allowing life insurance is that it helps fulfill the social needs of individuals in times of need. The well-known Hanafi jurist of India, Shaikh Ahmed Riḍā Khān (d. 1921), clearly demonstrated the permission for life insurance that is facilitated by the government. However, based on his explanation, we can trace out the permission for life insurance that is provided by the companies. (Fatāwā Raḥwiyā, vol. 23: 601)

In short, life insurance is permitted according to Sharia.

### Answer:3

If the house is an investment, Zakat is obligatory on its current value by the end of each year, whether 1,600,000 or less or more. It has nothing to do with the person collecting zakat money and planning to buy it for the poor and needy. The owner of the house can reasonably sell it to whomever he wants.

However, there is a technical Sharia issue with buying a house directly from Zakat money. The Zakat collector cannot buy a home to provide accommodation for the poor and needy.

Finally, juridical understanding of the Sharia allows one to benefit from a savings account in the United States, and life Insurance is also permitted according to the juridical view of Muslim jurists, as I explained. The third question has nothing to do with the Zakat collector; hence, the owner of the house can sell the house for a reasonable value.



## Being American and Muslim Strength or Conflict?

**Hanaan Noorani**

*Dept. of Psychology, Florida Atlantic University*

In the world we live in today, identity is often framed as something that must be chosen or divided. For many young American Muslims, this can create a false narrative that being both fully American and fully Muslim can be a contradiction. So, how do you choose one of the two to identify with? Do you have to decide which one matters more to you?

In reality, these identities do not compete but rather complement one another. Being an American means valuing freedom, diversity, and the pursuit of justice. And being Muslim means upholding compassion, integrity, and belief. When combined, these values create individuals who are not only deeply rooted in their faith but also committed to creating a fair and free society in the United States.

American Muslims embody this balance every day, without even realizing it. They are students, doctors, lawyers, and activists who fight for what's right. They are leaders of the community and the future of our youth, actively shaping the nation with their voices while staying grounded in their beliefs. Whether through civic engagement or by representing their faith, they challenge stereotypes and build bridges across divided communities.

Organizations like the American Muslim Advocacy Network (AMAN) play a vital role in supporting this journey. By creating spaces for connection, leadership, and diversity, AMAN helps individuals embrace their identities with confidence. Programs such as 'Coffee with AMAN' and "Roses of Rahmah" create welcoming spaces for American youth to connect and grow. Through its initiative, they reinforce the idea that being American and Muslim is not a conflict, but a powerful foundation for leadership and service.



## Broken Bonds Rebuilding Family Ties Through Islam

**Imam Bilal Khan**

*Member of the Executive Council, AMAN's NIC*

Around 1 in 4 Americans is estranged from at least one family member. That means that approximately 25% of Americans have 'cut off' contact with a parent, child, sibling, or extended family member. Some polls suggest a higher number, nearly 4 in 10 American adults (approx. 40%) report being estranged from one or more family members. This growing trend raises an important question: What does Islam say about the family unit?

One of the core objectives of Islam is to establish peace, harmony, and mercy within human relationships, especially within the family structure. Allah Almighty says in the Qur'an regarding marital relationships, "And He has placed between you compassion and mercy" (30:21). This principle of compassion and mercy is not limited to spouses but should extend to all family ties. When this foundation is lost, emotional distance grows, and bonds begin to weaken. In fact, research suggests that family estrangement is often the result of broken attachment bonds. When mercy and compassion disappear, estrangement begins to grow.

The mother of believers, Aisha (May Allah be pleased with her), was asked what the Prophet Muhammad ﷺ used to do in his house, and she replied: "He used to keep himself busy serving his family, and when it was the time for prayer, he would go for it" (Bukhari). This shows us that the Prophet ﷺ prioritized his family and prayer, without neglecting one for the other. Islam teaches us balance, and we must find that balance in our personal lives between work, family, and faith. Islam treats the family unit not just as a formality, but as a sacred trust. It calls us to uphold our ties of kinship, to serve our families with compassion and mercy, and be present with them.

Take a moment to reflect: Who in your family have you drifted from and what small step(s) can you take to revive that connection, for the sake of Allah?



## REFLECTION ON THE QURAN

**Syed Anas**

*Spokesperson: AMAN's National Imam Council*

الله نور السماوات والارض

“God is the light of the heavens and the earth.”  
(Qur'an, 24:35.)


The verse does not speak of light as something seen. It points to what makes things clear. Without it, the world remains present but unsettled in meaning. One may observe what exists, yet still not quite know where it comes from, why it is here, or where it leads. What is visible does not always become understood.

In that condition, a person is left with unresolved questions. Is life governed or without limits? Is there accountability or complete freedom? What counts as good and what counts as evil. Should one follow desire, or hold to justice? These are not distant concerns. They shape how life is lived. Without a clear answer to them, direction does not hold. A person continues to act, but without a settled standard, and sooner or later that absence begins to show in ways that are not always obvious at first.

When a person recognizes God with His attributes and what follows from them, things begin to settle into place. The same world that once felt uncertain starts to open up. Purpose is no longer guessed at. Accountability is no longer unclear. What is right and wrong does not shift with circumstance. Life gains direction, not without struggle, but with something firm to return to. One begins to move with a sense of clarity, not because everything is known, but because enough is clear to proceed. This is what it means for God to be light.

### A Question for the Reader

What in your life still feels unsettled?



## REFLECTION ON HADITH

**Syed Anas**

*Spokesperson: AMAN's National Imam Council*

In Islam, knowledge is a trust.

The words of the Prophet, peace be upon him, are not just remembered; they are preserved with care.

The early companions understood this well.

They did not feel the need to share everything they heard.

They chose their words carefully, knowing that speaking in his name carried weight.

A report from Anas ibn Malik brings that into focus.

قال انس بن مالك انه ليمنعني ان احدتكم حديثا كثيرا ان النبي صلى الله عليه وسلم قال من تعمد علي كذبا فليتبوا مقعده من النار (1)

Anas said that what held him back from narrating many reports from the Messenger of Allah, peace be upon him, was this statement:

“Whoever deliberately lies about me should prepare his place in the Fire.”

This report shifts the focus.

It is not about how much is said, but about what is passed on.

The companions were sincere, but they were also careful.

There is a pause here, if you let it settle.

It is a short report. But it holds weight.

Not because it argues, but because it shows a way of thinking. In a time when words move quickly, that restraint begins to stand out.

### A Question for the Reader

When you come across a report about the Prophet, peace be upon him, that resonates with you, but you are unsure of its source, how do you respond?

(1) Ahmad ibn Hanbal, Musnad Ahmad, no. 507. In this report, the wording also appears as «بيتا في النار» instead of «مقعده من النار».

# LEADERSHIP ENGAGEMENTS

## A Night of Unity: Nassau County Ramadan



AMAN Chairman Mufti Sajjad Madani attended and delivered keynote remarks at the Nassau County Ramadan Iftar hosted by the Office of Asian American Affairs. The gathering brought together elected officials, faith leaders, and community members, reflecting the spirit of unity during Ramadan.

In his address, Mufti Sajjad Madani emphasized that Ramadan teaches compassion, service to humanity, and respect for all people, values that strengthen relationships and build lasting friendships.

We appreciate County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Senior Advisor Chaudhry Akram, and Executive Director Own Naqvi for organizing this meaningful event. Imam Anwaar Ul Haq Alvi, General Secretary of NIC, was also present.

## NIC Session at Masjid Al-Karam Baltimore



An introductory session of the AMAN National Imams Council was held at Masjid Al-Karam, Baltimore, hosted by Allama Tariq Jami, Vice President of the National Imam Council. Scholars, imams, and community leaders from Maryland and Virginia attended to learn about AMAN's mission and the objectives of the National Imams Council.

The gathering was honored by the presence of Chair-

man Mufti Sajjad Madani, President Dr. Khushtar Noorani, and Chief Patron Mufti Manzar-ul-Islam Al-Azhari. On this occasion, Sahibzada Asim Maharvi, Imam Ansar Raza, Dr. Imam Zafar Iqbal Noori, Imam Adam Ali, and Syed Hamza were also present.

The session strengthened unity and collaboration among local imams and concluded with a dinner hosted by Allama Tariq Jami in honor of the AMAN delegation.

## Returning to Abraham: Reflections on Courage and Unity California



Imam Riaz Ahmad Qadri, Vice President of the National Imam Council and Director of Religious Affairs at the Woodland Islamic Center, delivered a thoughtful reflection on the courage of Prophet Abraham (peace be upon him), drawing from the Holy Qur'an. His message resonated with AMAN's mission of promoting unity, mutual respect, and principled leadership.

The "Celebration of Abraham" brought together nearly 200 Muslim, Christian, and Jewish participants at the Muslim Mosque & Islamic Center of Woodland. Centered on the theme "Returning to Abraham: Reflections in Courage," the gathering fostered meaningful dialogue, shared values, and strengthened bonds of understanding and friendship across faith communities.



## Empowering Muslim Youth: Address at MSA Florida



The MSA Florida Chapter organized a special Iftar Banquet on March 3, 2026, inviting Dr. Khushtar Noorani as a guest speaker. Attended by over one hundred students, the program began with Maghrib prayer, followed by Iftar and dinner in a warm, engaging atmosphere.

Dr. Noorani delivered a talk on “The Objective of Fasting,” emphasizing that Ramadan is meant to build character, compassion, and a sense of responsibility toward society. He encouraged students to become confident contributors to American society through their faith and actions.

The program concluded with Isha and Taraweeh prayers, leaving a lasting spiritual and motivational impact on the participants.

## American Muslims Advocacy Network (AMAN)

*Empowering Muslims, Bridging Communities, Advancing Peace*



The American Muslims Advocacy Network (AMAN) is a national movement rooted in the timeless Sufi values of peace, compassion, and service. It was established with a clear purpose: to build a strong, confident Muslim community in America that remains firmly grounded in its Islamic identity while actively contributing to the broader society.

Across the United States, a large number of imams and scholars represent a tradition of balance, tolerance, and spirituality. However, for many years, this majority lacked a unified platform to collaborate, grow, and serve effectively. AMAN was created to fill this gap by bringing scholars, leaders, and communities together under a shared vision of unity, guidance, and constructive engagement.

AMAN works to preserve Islamic values while preparing the next generation to navigate modern challenges with confidence and integrity. It promotes a sense of gratitude for the opportunities and freedoms available in this country, while encouraging Muslims to play a positive and responsible role in society. Through its initiatives, AMAN fosters unity within the Muslim community and builds bridges with people of other faiths through dialogue, cooperation, and shared service.

The organization operates through a range of departments, including the National Imam Council, Youth Forum, Women Wing, American Fatwa Council, and Interfaith Initiatives, among others. These platforms support scholars, empower youth, strengthen families, and provide guidance on contemporary issues. AMAN also actively engages in education, media outreach, humanitarian service, and research to address the evolving needs of the community.

Today, AMAN continues to expand its network across multiple states, connecting Islamic centers, scholars, and community leaders. Through regular programs, national engagement, and collaborative efforts, it remains committed to promoting peace, strengthening relationships, and serving humanity with sincerity and purpose.

**GET INVOLVED** - Volunteer, partner, and support AMAN's mission

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