



MAJLIS ASH-SHURA OF THE DELAWARE VALLEY

AUGUST 2025/1447 (AH) E-NEWSLETTER VOL.3 NO.32



ABOUT THE MAJLIS

In 1990 a group of Philadelphia Area imams and other community stakeholders started the Majlis Ash-Shura of the Delaware Valley, to perform the prophetic sunnah of *shura* (consultation). It's organized as an independent 501 (c)(3) non-profit in the state of Pennsylvania. 'Majlis Ash-Shura' can be translated to mean the consultative body, council, or meeting. Aside from being a consultative body, the Majlis attempts to facilitate Muslims fulfilling their obligations, share best

practices for the area's Masjids, and improve the quality of life for Muslims. From sighting every lunar month beginning to intervening in conflicts, to organizing visitors for the sick Muslims in facilities, the Majlis has performed an array of services. We invite all Muslims to sincerely work in whatever capacity they can, with their respective talent, expertise, and/or interest.



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HILAAL (CRESCENT MOON/START OF A LUNAR MONTH)

In accordance with the *sunnah* of naked-eye sighting of the *hilaal* (or a lunar month expiring due to having 30 days) and the *fard kifaayah* (communal obligation) of keeping track of time, as per the Majlis' moon sighting committee, *the daylight hours of Saturday, July 26, 2025, will be the 1st day of the Islamic lunar month of Safar 1447 AH.*



RECITATION OF QURAN

We mentioned in the 2024 September edition of our newsletter one of the pillars of *tajweed* (proper/good recitation of the Quran) being *riyaadatul-lisaan* (exercising the tongue). Another we'll speak briefly about in this edition is having a teacher to help you recite properly, especially for those who often lead prayers. Whether in your home, masjid, or place of work.



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The teacher would ideally be an expert in the recitation of the Quran, but someone very knowledgeable would suffice. The expert teacher would more than likely have a direct link to someone from amongst the first generations of Muslims (e.g., companions of the Prophet (saws)), which means their recitation would be consistent with how it was revealed to Prophet Muhammad (saws), via the angel Jibreel (as). Moreover, they would possibly explain some of the history behind the different authentic modes of recitation, explain the rules, explain the points of articulation, recite the Quran for you, and ultimately observe your recitation closely to give you positive feedback. Mistakes often happen when people haven't studied the proper rules of recitation. And even though those legitimately struggling will again double the reward. It is not a praiseworthy state to aspire to, as mistakes in the meaning of the Quran can be somewhat ugly to listeners. Furthermore, the recitation should be inspiring and accurate.

To illustrate a common mistake, when you end/stop your recitation and the last letter is a *meem* with a *fathah tanween* above it, you don't

pronounce it as *man*, it's pronounced as *maa* (two beats).¹ But some reciters incorrectly say it with a soft *ha*, as in *maah*. What typically happens is the reciter is coming to the end of them making a sound, so their breath may be a little heavy, unintentionally making the sound of a *ha*. Therefore, to ensure the proper pronunciation of *maa* is not accompanied by a *ha* (as in *maah*), the reciter can practice with the teacher's guidance saying *maa* with one hand hovering over the mouth. If the reciter feels air at the end of saying *maa*, they are adding the letter *ha* (with a *sukun*) to the *maa*. Seems confusing? That's why we should sit with those who know the proper recitation in order to give all the letters and rules their due, especially those leading prayers regularly. May Allah (swt) reward all the reciters of Quran, and make it easy on those who are struggling with the proper recitation. Aameen!

¹ In the recitation of *Hafs*.



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HUNGER AROUND THE WORLD

Two of the main metrics, albeit estimates, that inform us of crises that people have are hunger and food insecurity. The FAO or The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, defines hunger as:

an uncomfortable or painful physical sensation caused by insufficient consumption of dietary energy. This physical

sensation may become chronic when the person does not consume a sufficient number of calories regularly to lead a normal, active and healthy life.²

Moreover, they define food insecurity as:

a lack of regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This condition may be due to unavailability of food and/or lack of resources to obtain food. Food insecurity can be experienced at different levels of severity: mild, moderate or severe.³

With regards to food insecurity around the world, some data tells us that many people are still very vulnerable to say the least. Below are some interesting stats spanning from 2022-2024 (three year average):⁴

² <https://www.un.org/en/global-issues/food>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://www.fao.org/interactive/hunger-map/en/>



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- The U.S.'s food insecurity rate was 10.2% of the population, whereas Sri Lanka's (right below India) was 11.2%
- Haiti, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Malawi, and Afghanistan, all had rates ranging from 80% to 89%
- The Russian Federation had a rate of 2.8% and Belarus (directly west of Russia) had a rate of only 1.1%

Guyana (north of Brazil in South America) is the only country that is considered food self-sufficient.⁵ Meaning, they can produce all the seven food groups (water, protein, fat, carbohydrates, dairy, vegetables, and fruit) on their own. While China and Vietnam cover six of the seven food groups. However, when we look at Guyana's numbers, they say 25.5% of their population experienced food insecurity between 2022 and 2024, which is interesting as they are

food self-sufficient.⁶ And countries like Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen, amongst some others, do not obtain food self-sufficiency in any of the seven categories we mentioned.⁷

Keep in mind that every country has resources to assist them in feeding their people and in order to trade productively with others. However, on the macro level, oppression, war, and/or extreme mismanagement causes the people to suffer, along with severe weather events. While on the micro level, low-wage jobs, transportation, high cost of healthcare and more, can dramatically impact a household's food security.

On the local level, below are some stats from 2022, with regards to the percentage of food insecure people:

⁵ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-025-01173-4>

⁶ <https://www.fao.org/interactive/hunger-map/en/>

⁷ <https://www.nature.com/articles/s43016-025-01173-4>



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Pennsylvania⁸

Delaware County (Chester, Media, Lansdowne, etc.): 9.7%

Chester County (West Chester, Malvern, Exton, etc.): 8.1%

Philadelphia County: 15.2%

Bucks County (Doylestown, New Hope, Langhorne, etc.): 8.8%

Montgomery County (Norristown, King of Prussia, etc.): 8.6%

New Jersey⁹

Camden County (Camden, Lawnside, Cherry Hill, etc.): 11.9%

Burlington County (Burlington, Cinnaminson, etc.): 7.9%

Gloucester County (Woodbury, Paulsboro, Deptford, etc.): 8.9%

Salem County (Salem, Penns Grove, etc.): 12.1%

Delaware¹⁰

New Castle County (Wilmington, New Castle, Newark, etc.): 12%

⁸ <https://www.philabundance.org/learn-about-food-insecurity/>

⁹ Ibid.

¹⁰ <https://www.fbd.org/food-insecurity-on-the-rise-in-delaware/>



CORPORATE GREED

The U.S. placed sanctions on her this year - she's an expert on human rights - she is a special rapporteur for the United Nations, specifically in the Palestinian territories. Her name is Francesca Albanese. U.N. special



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rapporteurs are independent human rights experts and Francesca was assigned to this task in 2022, pro bono.¹¹

What did she do?

She published a 39 page report, June 30, 2025, citing 60 companies who are complicit in the genocide, displacement, human rights violations, discrimination, and/or extrajudicial killing and starvation of Palestinians.

Below are some excerpts from the report.

IBM has operated in Israel since 1972, training military and intelligence personnel – especially from Unit 8200 – for the technology sector and start-up scene.⁸⁷ Since 2019, IBM Israel has operated and upgraded the central database of the Population and Immigration Authority,⁸⁸ enabling

collection, storage and governmental use of biometric data on Palestinians, and supporting the discriminatory permit regime of Israel.⁸⁹ Before IBM, Hewlett Packard Enterprises (HPE) maintained the database and its Israeli subsidiary is still providing servers.⁹⁰ Hewlett Packard (HP) has long enabled the apartheid systems of Israel, supplying technology to the Coordination of Government Activities in the Territories (COGAT), the prison service and police.⁹¹ Since the 2015 split of the company into Hewlett Packard Enterprises and HP Inc., opaque business structures have obscured the roles of their seven remaining Israeli subsidiaries. (Page 10, entry 38)

And,

Microsoft has been active in Israel since 1991, developing its largest centre outside the United States. Its technologies are embedded in the prison service, police, universities and schools – including in colonies. Microsoft has been integrating its systems and civilian tech across the

¹¹

<https://theconversation.com/the-us-has-sanctioned-un-special-rapporteur-francesca-albanese-heres-why-shes-the-wrong-target-261788>



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Israeli military since 2003, while acquiring Israeli cybersecurity and surveillance start-ups. (Pg 10, entry 39)

And,

Coal for electricity to Israel originates primarily from Colombia (60 per cent of Israeli coal imports in 2023-24); United States-headquartered Drummond Company, Inc. and the Swiss-based Glencore PLC are the primary suppliers. Their respective subsidiaries own the mines and the three ports involved in the delivery of 15 coal shipments to Israel since October 2023, including six shipments after Colombia suspended coal exports to Israel in August 2024. Glencore was also involved in shipments from South Africa; 185 these shipments accounted for 15 per cent of Israeli coal imports in 2023 and 2024.

To read the full Human Rights Council report:

<https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/sessions-regular/session59/advance-version/a-hrc-59-23-aev.pdf>



ONE BIG BEAUTIFUL BILL

On July 4, 2025 President Trump signed the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill’ into law. Aside from the law adding to the complexities of the current tax code, the new law has some pros and cons, depending who you talk to! Linked are two sources explaining the new law:



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From the United States House Committee on Ways and Means
(positive about the law):

<https://waysandmeans.house.gov/2025/07/02/the-one-big-beautiful-bill-is-an-economic-lifeline-for-working-families/>

From Law Professor Moran at Vanderbilt University
(negative about the law):

<https://theconversation.com/how-the-big-beautiful-bill-will-deepen-the-racial-wealth-gap-a-law-scholar-explains-how-it-reduces-poor-families-ability-to-afford-food-and-health-care-260680>

To read the history of the new law in Congress and to read it in its entirety:

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/house-bill/1/text>



TELEGRAM (SOCIAL MEDIA)

In July, the Majlis' Telegram group was anonymously asked:

Which Arabic word (or one that shares the same root) is prefaced in the Quran by the Arabic word min (from), every time it's mentioned in the Quran.

1. Jannah - 0%
2. Jahannam - 20%
3. Naas - 0%
4. Ladun - 40%

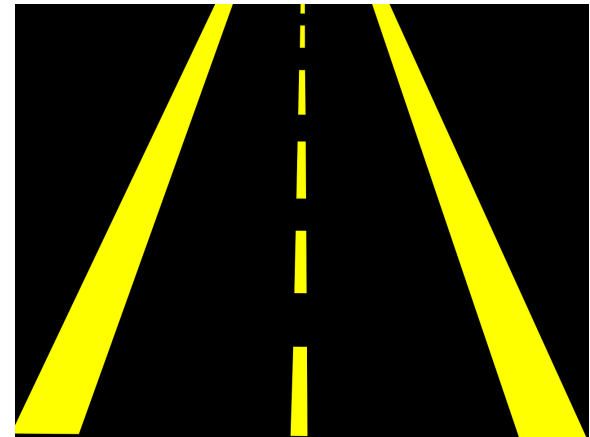


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5. *Al-mu'mineen* - 40%

6. *Ash-shajarah* - 0%

*Answer: **Ladun** is an Arabic word usually denoting a type of closeness with Allah (swt). It's mentioned 18 times in the Quran. Two examples can be seen in surah Ali 'Imran, verse 38, and surah Maryam, verse 5.*



THE MAJLIS ASH-SHURA IN ACTION

(below is a partial list of the actions of the Majlis)

2025

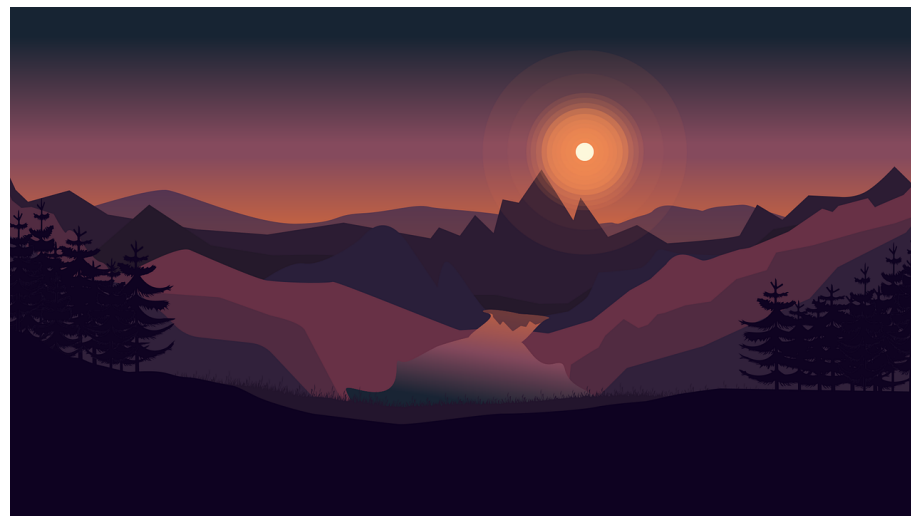
- In January, the education committee hosted their 2nd annual Ramadan and Beyond event. Assisting educators and admins on handling pertinent concerns as they relate to Muslim students.



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- In February, the Majlis' Education committee co-sponsored an essay contest
 - In March, the Education Committee hosted an *iftar* (fast breaking) in the banquet hall of Masjid Hidayah in Philadelphia. Targeting those directly involved in education.
- In March, the Majlis purchased a full page ad congratulating The International League of Muslim Women
- In March, we changed our address to 4414 Germantown Ave. ,3rd flr, suite C Phila., PA 19140
- In March, the Majlis entered a coalition with Universal Muslim Business Association & Nicetown Community Development Corporation
- In June, the Economic Development Committee hosted its 1st annual fundraising bowling party at V&S Elmwood Lanes in Philadelphia, and profited money for the Majlis

May Allah (swt) accept our efforts



DU 'AA FOR THE ILL, OPPRESSED, & RECENTLY DECEASED

Please don't forget our brothers and sisters who are going through tribulations (*masaaib*), whether with their health, wealth, familial relationships, physical security, death of a loved one, and so on.



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*May Allah give those whom He recently called back, jannatul firdaus.
May Allah bless the sick amongst us with well being ('aafiyah) in this
life and the next. May Allah ease their suffering, and grant them
healing (shifaa) with a speedy recovery. May their sickness/illness be
an expiation (kaffaarah) for their sins.*

*May Allah give relief to all people who are suffering under unjust
rulers, governments, or any oppressive entity.*

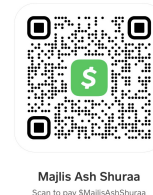
*May Allah remedy the affairs of the Muslims, may Allah turn away the
evil of the harmful.
Aameen, Aameen, Aameen*

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE MAJLIS?

For those interested in financially supporting the Majlis' efforts, no matter the amount you can afford, you can send it through cashapp. *Shukran, Jazaakullah!* Nonetheless, please make *du'aa* for all those working to please Allah (swt).

Cashtag: \$MajlisAshShuraa

[https://cash.app/\\$MajlisAshShuraa](https://cash.app/$MajlisAshShuraa)



SUBMITTING CONTENT

If you are interested in adding to the Majlis' newsletter, please be aware of the following rules:



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- A. All content must be submitted by the 15th of every month. For instance, if you would like for your submission to be in February's edition, submit content by January 15th.
- B. All content is subject to grammatical and punctual editing. As well as apparent accuracy and suitability for The Majlis' mission & objectives. Further, we reserve the right to postpone your submission for a future edition.
- C. All information should be cited appropriately.
- D. Keep in mind that The Majlis Ash-Shura is rooted in the people of the sunnah and the community (*Ahlus-Sunnah wal-jamaa'ah*). Therefore, we will not showcase any messages rooted in any other religious affiliation, or messages overtly or covertly disparaging the Qur'an, any of the Prophets & Messengers, or any of the Prophet's Companions (may Allah be pleased with them).

NEWSLETTER INQUIRIES, CORRECTIONS, AND SUBMISSIONS CAN BE SENT TO EITHER:

Yasir Uqdah: news@phillymajlis.com

or

Maryam Woods: maryam.s.woods@gmail.com

MAJLIS CONTACT INFORMATION

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How to stay in touch with The Majlis?
Subscribe to this newsletter by going to our website and submitting your email address and name. You can also join us in-person at our



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next general monthly meeting, All this information can be found on our website mentioned above. And don't forget to follow us on

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61563258563617>

And check out our Youtube page:

<https://www.youtube.com/@MajlisDelVal>

PHILADELPHIA MAYOR'S OFFICE OF MUSLIM ENGAGEMENT (OME)

Stay in contact with the OME. The office's main objective is to assist in providing needed resources to the greater Muslim community in Philadelphia.

Contact: Dr. Quaiser Abdullah Ph.D (Director)

email: muslim.engage@phila.gov

Address: City Hall 112, Philadelphia, PA 19107

The views and opinions expressed throughout this newsletter are not necessarily the views and/or opinions of the entire Majlis Ash-Shura, its members, or affiliates.

Any quotes from the Quran or Prophet Muhammad (SAWS) are paraphrased in the English translation. Not to be confused with expert translations or explanations.