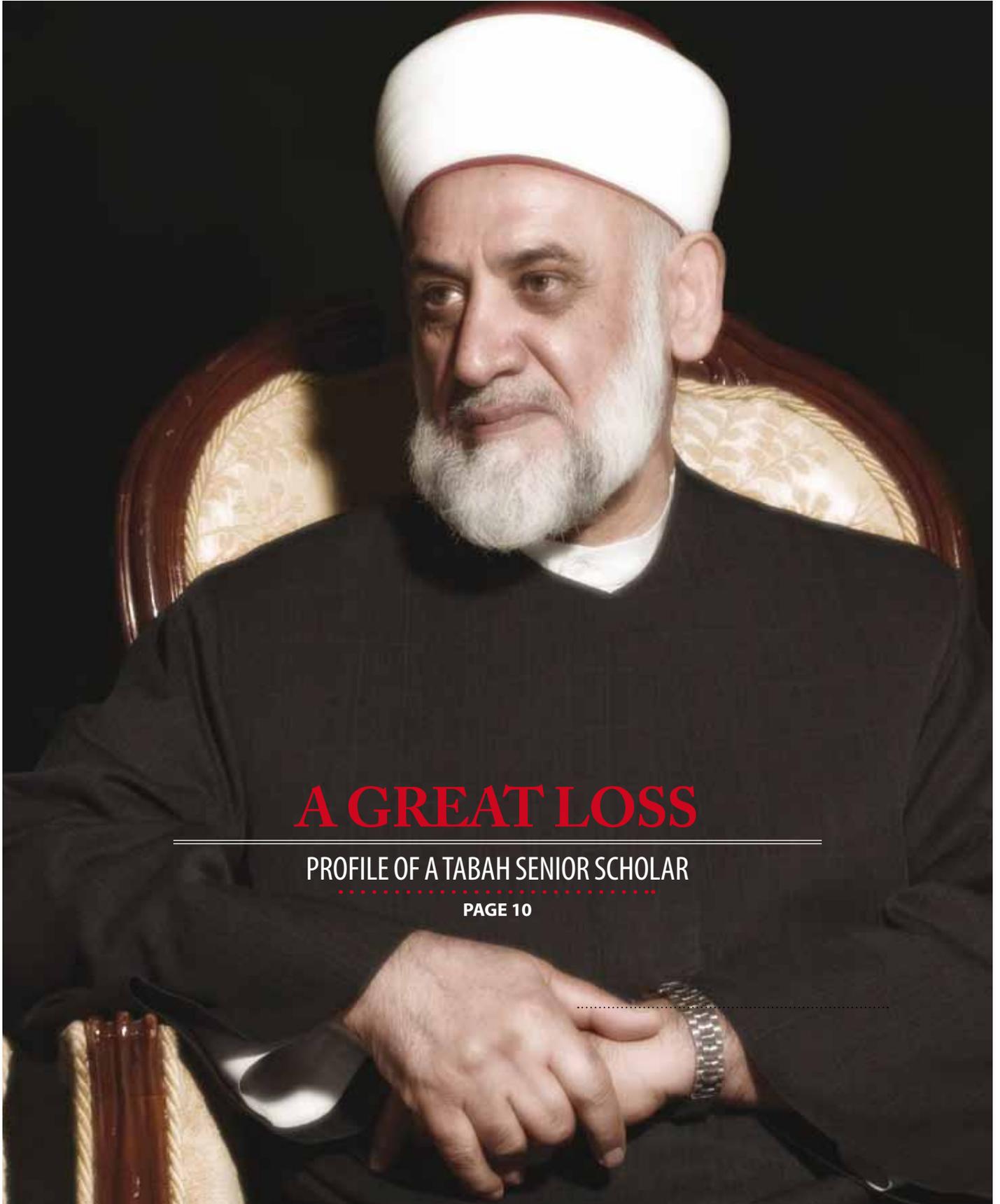


# CLARITY



WORLD ISLAMIC DISCOURSE AND RESEARCH ACTIVITIES PUBLISHED BY THE TABAH FOUNDATION

SUMMER 2011



## A GREAT LOSS

PROFILE OF A TABAH SENIOR SCHOLAR

PAGE 10

# In the name of God, the Compassionate the Merciful

---



**P**raise be to God Lord of the worlds May blessings and peace be upon our master Mohammad the trustworthy prophet and his pure righteous household and his illumined companions.

This issue of 'Clarity' is honoured to include a section dedicated to the life of the Godly Scholar Sheikh Nuh Ali Salman al-Qudat – may God have mercy on him – (who was member of the foundation's Senior Scholars Council, and the Mufti of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan) and his lifelong contributions to the community of the Prophet . The Sheikh's departure has left a vacuum which cannot be easily filled, we ask God Majestic – Majestic is He in His Exaltedness – to cover him in His mercy and forgiveness and to allow him entry into the abodes of the people of Divine Love, among the Prophets, true saints, martyrs,

and righteous people and how great they are as companions.

This second issue of 'Clarity' also has an article on 'the Tabah Intellectual Tent' and the cultural and intellectual events which have taken place there since its foundation. The issue also has a profile on one of the members of the Tabah team, covering important areas of his life, and the nature of his relation and work with the foundation.

The issue also includes some news on a number of important guests and their visits to the foundation, as well as some of the activities in which the foundation has been engaged both inside and outside the UAE. The last section covers the latest publications from the foundation's research department.

*Ali Zain al-Abideen al-Jifri*

General Director  
Tabah Foundation

# CONTENTS

Issue #2, Summer 2011

## Tabah Intellectual Tent 4

**Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson**

"Islam in the West: challenges and opportunities"

"Traditional teaching: the ability of the past to enlighten the present"

**Shaykh Abdullah bin Bayyah**

"Muslims and the economic crisis"

**Alonzo L. McDonald**

"Character and integrity"

**Shaykh Mohamed El Mokhtar Ould M'balah**

"Scholars' dialogue with al-Qaeda in Mauritania"

**Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah**

"Humanist philosophy in Islam and the West"

"Islam and the question of modernity"

## People at Tabah 8

Interview with Ameinoallah Abderoef, Research Coordinator

## Obituary of Dr Nuh al-Qudat 10

Tabah mourns Shaykh Dr. Nuh Al Qudat

## News at Tabah 11

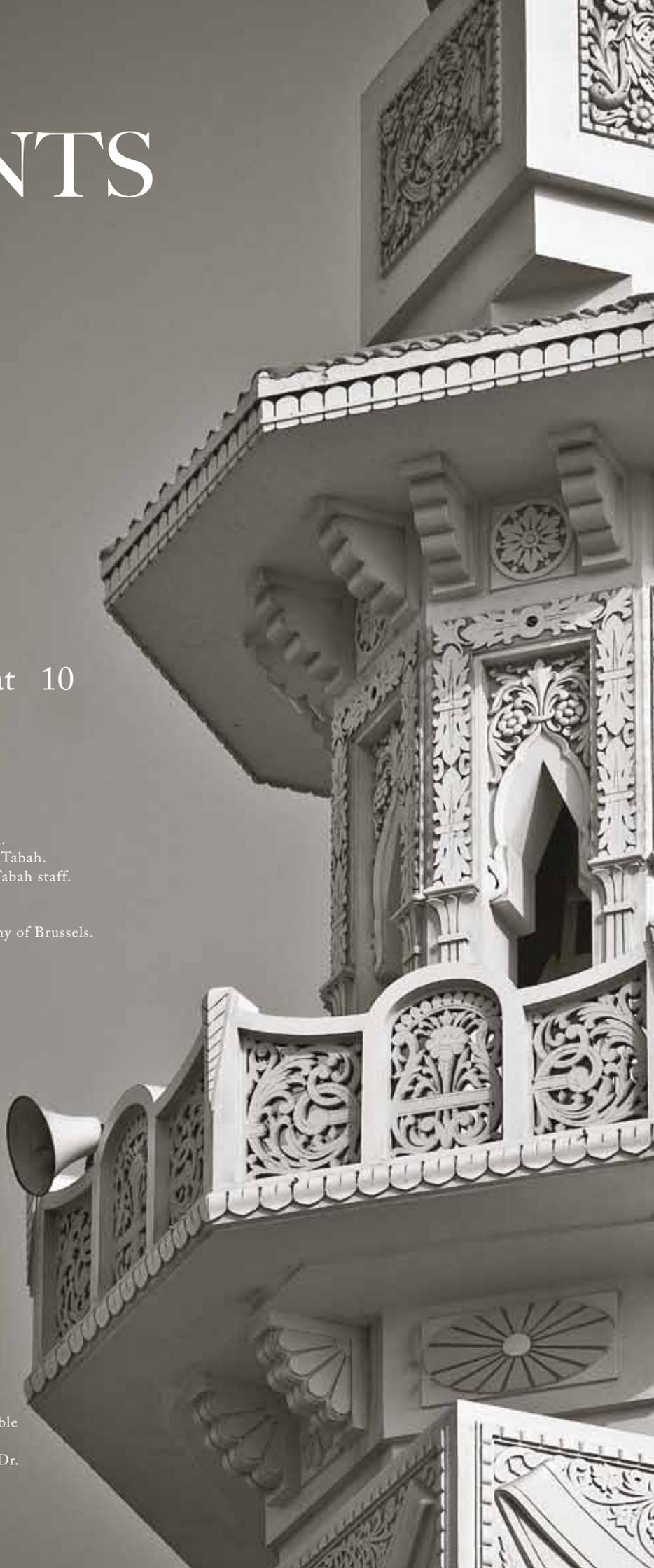
- Tabah Foundation mourns Shaykh Dr. Nuh Al Qudat.
- Executive Director and co-founder of IMAN visits Tabah.
- Representatives from Japan's Reimei Islamic Society visit Tabah.
- Habib Umar, Dean of Dar Al-Mustafa, Tarim addresses Tabah staff.
- Tabah's General Director's tour of France.
- Deen Tight screened in Copenhagen and Kuala Lumpur.
- Tabah's General Director addresses the European Academy of Brussels.
- Islamic reference website is launched.
- Zayed House collaboration completed.
- A new role for Shaykh Jihad Brown.
- CNN interviews Tabah's Senior Academic Advisor.
- New computer system keeps Tabah connected.
- Tabah collaborates on an iconic book about Makkah.

## Conferences and Seminars 13

- Muslims and Christians: 15 Centuries of Love & Affection
- Islamic moderation and sobriety : the Hadhramout school model
- Tabah's General Director's trip to Canada
- Tabah delegates attend Mardin Conference, Turkey
- Tabah's General Director takes part in the Hashemite Scientific Councils in Jordan

## Latest Research Papers 16

- Beyond Flak Attack: A New Engagement with the Newsroom [Nazim Baksh]
- Islamic Discourse: Between the Conclusive and the Variable [Sh. Abdullah Bin Bayyah]
- Language Matters: A Dialogue on Language and Logic [Dr. Taha Abderrahman]
- Islam-West Dialogue: A Critical Analysis of the Davos Report [Irfana Hashemi]





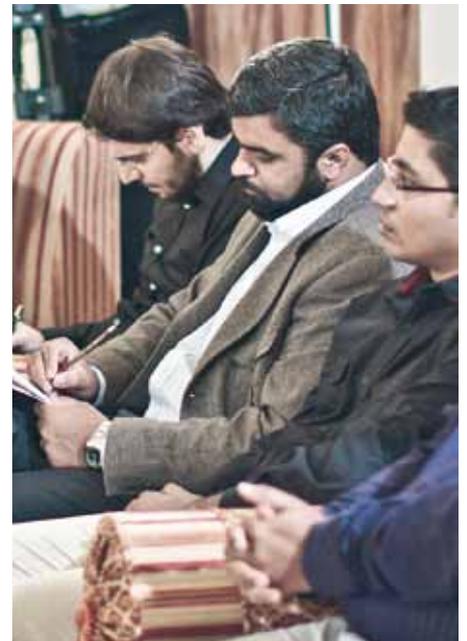
*H.H Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan, Al Habib Ali Al Jifri*



*Sheikh Hamzah Yousef in one of Tabah tent Lectures*



*Part of the Audience in one of the lectures*



*Part of the Audience in one of the lectures*

# TABAH INTELLECTUAL TENT

WHERE THINKERS MEET AND IDEAS EXCHANGE

The Tabah Intellectual Tent provides a unique setting in which a series of lectures, seminars, workshops and other events are facilitated. Located at Tabah's Headquarters in Abu Dhabi, the venue hosts a selection of distinguished scholars and influential personalities in order that they may engage in intellectual discussion and debate surrounding philosophical topics and current events occurring at local, regional and international levels. Among other issues, notions of the role of Islam in society and the impact of modernisation are explored, whilst ties amongst scholars, researchers and decision makers from different countries are strengthened.

---

---

# LECTURES

---

---

## Shaykh Hamza Yusuf Hanson

---

Ranked among the 50 most influential Muslims in the world in 2009, Shaykh Hamza Yusuf has spent over thirty years studying and teaching classical Islamic disciplines. Shaykh Hamza is a co-founder and Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Zaytuna College, America's first accredited Muslim institution of higher learning in Berkeley, California, which is dedicated to the revival of traditional study methods and the sciences of Islam. He has travelled around the world delivering talks on Islam.



Sheikh Hamzah Yousef

### "Islam in the West: Challenges and Opportunities"

---

Shaykh Hamza examined evidence supporting the prevalence of Islam in the West hundreds of years ago, demonstrating the ways in which Islamic principles had influenced English philosopher John Locke's theories of religious tolerance. He showed how Islam had had an effect on the establishment of the fundamentals of the American constitution, which is rooted in the preservation of human rights and tolerance. He also considered the strong relationship that existed between Muslim countries and the then newly established States of America (which was first recognised as an independent nation

by Morocco) and the importance of peace for the continuation of successful and prosperous transactions between the two parties.

The talk was attended by H.H. Sheikh Zayed Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Muhammad Bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Shakhboot Bin Nahyan Al Nahyan, H.H. Sheikh Muhammad Bin Khalifa Bin Hamdan and H.H. Sheikh Diab Bin Hamdan Al Nahyan, as well as Dr. Farooq Hamada, Advisor to the Crown Prince and other public figures.

### "Traditional Teaching: The Ability of the Past to Enlighten the Present"

---

Shaykh Hamza Yusuf began his address with an overview of the origins of Arabs and their tribal genealogy, the workings of Arab society and culture before and after Islam, and the many skills they acquired through dealing with their environment. "Arabic is an endless sea [and the] Quran is the source of all sciences," said Shaykh Hamza, describing the richness of the Arabic language and its importance to society, and the way in which Arabs, as connoisseurs of language and rhetoric, received the Quran as a unique literary monument.

The lecture was attended by H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, and H.E. Dr. Hamdan Al-Mazrouei, Chairman of the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments, among others.

## Sheikh Abdallah bin Bayyah

---

One of the greatest living authorities on Islamic Jurisprudence and legal theory as well as Arabic language, Shaykh bin Bayyah was ranked amongst the world's 50 most influential Muslims in 2009. The Shaykh is

actively involved in several organisations dedicated to the study and analysis of contemporary challenges confronting Muslims, and the formulation of solutions to resolve them.



H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah

### "Muslims and the Economic Crisis"

---

Shaykh Abdullah Bin Bayyah opened his lecture with a reflection on Islam and the holistic compassion Muslims could bring to the world, before examining the causes of the economic crisis, primarily the absence of ethics within the modern economy. Shaykh Bin Bayyah proposed ways in which Muslims were able to contribute towards the resolution of the crisis, including the role Islamic banking could play in improving systems of banking.

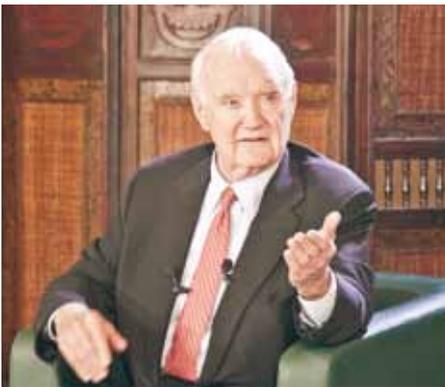
The lecture was attended by H.H. Sheikh Nahyan Bin Mubarak, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, among other prominent personalities, scholars, businessmen and members of the media.



*Al Habib Ali Al Jifri, H.E. Dr. Hamdan Al Mazroui*

## Alonzo L. McDonald

Founder and Chairman of The Trinity Forum, a former Assistant to the President of the United States and White House Staff Director of the Carter Administration, Alonzo L. McDonald is a renowned personality who has enjoyed a distinguished career in business, government and academia.



*The Honorable Alonzo L. McDonald*

### "Character and Integrity"

Alonzo McDonald explored the ways in which a combination of character traits can direct one's path to leadership: "[Character dimension] is the most important single factor from a professional standpoint that can influence those who rise to the top," he said. Ambassador McDonald added that while we may inherit a lot of things, "character comes about

by our own individual decisions and thinking."

He explained the importance of integrity as "one of the cornerstones of our character" and the basis of our partnerships and human relationships. Ambassador McDonald raised questions concerning the role that "our one and true God gave to us so that we would have a [meaningful] life", and provided several examples from his long experience in the fields of government, academia and business. In conclusion, the Ambassador emphasised the importance of self-knowledge: "We have to continue to examine ourselves and say: What are we? What identifies us? What distinguishes us from everyone else in terms of character?"

The lecture was attended by H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak, Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, as well as other leading figures.

## Sheikh Mohamed El Mokhtar Ould M'balah

Shaykh Ould M'balah is a well-known Islamic scholar and advisor to the president of Mauritania. He facilitated talks between the Mauritanian government and the Salafi extremists.

### "Dialogue with al-Qaeda in Mauritania"



*Sheikh Mohamed El Mokhtar Ould M'balah*

Shaykh Ould M'balah detailed his experience in heading the team responsible for the negotiations between traditional Islamic scholars and those imprisoned for terrorism-related offences at correctional institutions in Mauritania. Shaykh Ould M'balah shed light on the misinterpretations of Islam that led these groups to extremism and violence, and the ways in which the teachings of Islam have been manipulated to justify the killings of innocent people.

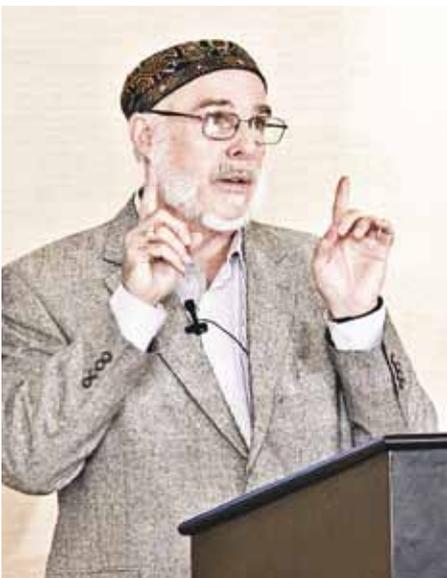
The lecture was attended by H.H. Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak, H.E. Hmida Ould Ahmed Taleb and the Ambassador of Mauritania in the UAE among other scholars and diplomats.



Shaykh Jihad shares a word with the Honorable Alonzo McDonald after his presentation

## Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah

One of the foremost Muslim scholars in the West and Chairman and Scholar-in-Residence of the Nawawi Foundation, Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah previously taught Islamic studies and comparative religions



Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah

at King Abdul-Aziz University in Saudi Arabia. He now teaches in and around Chicago while conducting research in the field of Islamic studies. He recently authored a book entitled *A Muslim in Victorian America: The Story of Alexander Russell Webb*, and is completing a second work, *Roots of Islam in America*.

### “Islam and the Question of Modernity”

In his second lecture, Dr. Umar Faruq focused on the advent of modernity as a post-agrarian system which, while bringing human beings together as never before in history, also generated radical social, political and religious change that now “requires [fleshing] out in all terms of human culture” and should be embraced “in all of its aspects to give meaning to our [lives]”. He explained that “a secular modernity, meaning one that

### “Humanist Philosophy in Islam and the West”

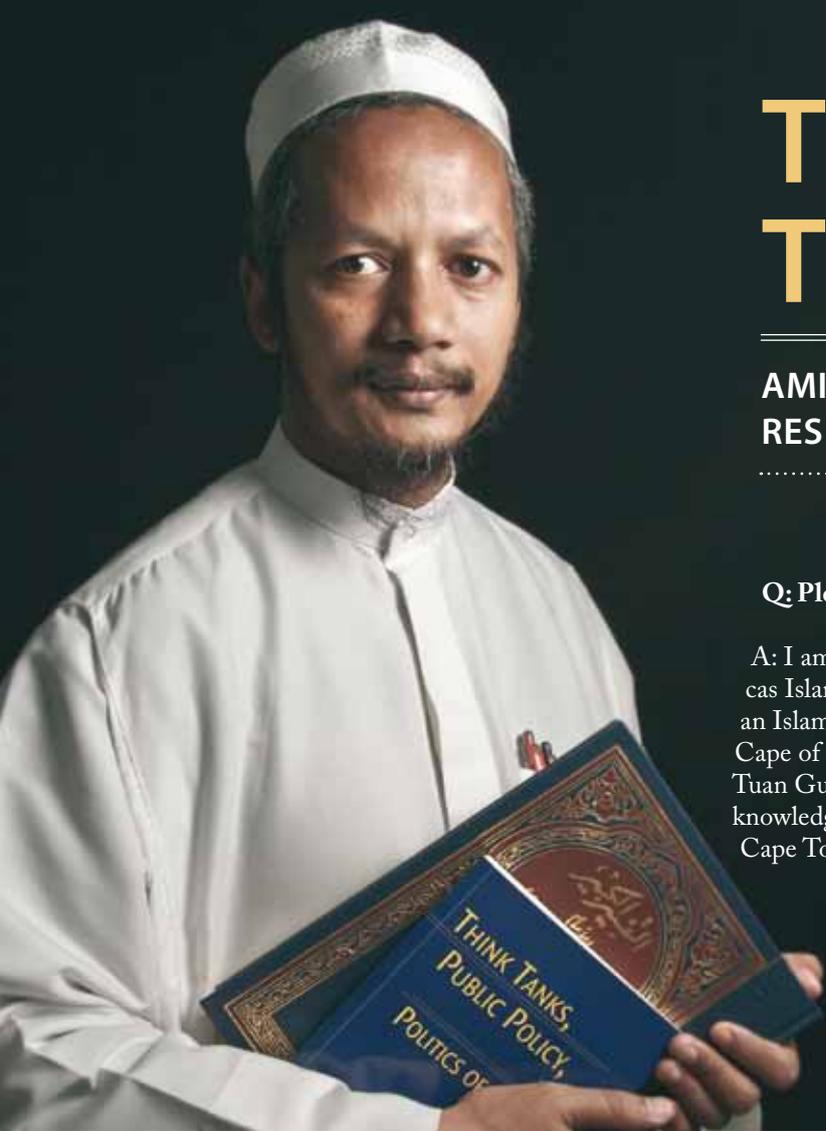
Using a mind map, Dr. Umar Faruq took his audience back in time to the Renaissance, tracing the impact of Islam and Islamic philosophers like Ibn Rushd (Averroes) on Western civilization, with reference to the emergence of Scholasticism and Humanism. Dr. Umar Faruq illustrated “...the common spirit that hovered over two worlds: Islam and Humanism, in the history of the East and West,” explaining the tremendous

### Tracing the impact of Islam and Islamic philosophers like Ibn Rushd on western civilization

does not have adequate space for religiosity, spirituality, human values, family values ... is a system which is not going to last.” Dr. Umar Faruq explained Toynbee’s view, that “great civilizations should provide the most meaningful religious worldview for humanity,” and that Islam had a great deal of potential to do so depending on the capacity of Muslims. Among the attendees were Gilles Arnout Beschoor Plug, Ambassador of the Kingdom of the Netherlands in Abu Dhabi and Professor Amir Al-Islam, lecturer at Zayed University, Dr. Jeffrey Belnap, Director Abu Dhabi Campus, Zayed University along with other dignitaries.

common roots and history shared by Islam and Christianity, along with the notion of influence and conflict characteristic of that era.

The lecture was attended by al-Sayed Ali al-Hashemi, Advisor to the UAE President on Judicial and Religious Affairs, H.E. Ibrahim Al Saad Al Ibrahim, Saudi Ambassador to the UAE, H.E. Al Haj Al Faki Hashem, Ambassador of Sudan to the UAE, H.E. Abdullah Hussain Mohammad Al Dafei and the Ambassador of Yemen to the UAE, among others.



# THE TABAH TEAM

**AMIENOELLAH ABDEROEF,  
RESEARCH COORDINATOR**

**Q: Please tell us a little about yourself.**

A: I am from South Africa but my ancestors hail from the Moluccas Islands in Indonesia. In 1780, the Dutch banished Tuan Guru, an Islamic scholar and religious leader, from the Islands to the Cape of Good Hope. It is from him whom my family descends. Tuan Guru was instrumental in establishing the strong legacy of knowledge and piety that provided the bedrock of Islamic life in Cape Town and which is present even until today.

My professional career has ranged from working in the teaching, research and translation domains. In addition, I have often been assigned to do reviewing and editing of English-Arabic translations.

**Q: What are your research interests?**

A: In general my research interests revolve around traditional, modern, and contemporary Islamic, Western and Arab thought, linguistics in general and Arabic linguistics in particular, education, pedagogics and didactics. Specifically I am interested in:

- Geo-historical aspects of the Islamic discourse, including its contemporary condition and its manifestation on the local, regional and global levels.
- The solid and liquid forms of modernity in comparison with the Islamic tradition.

**Q: Why Tabah Foundation?**

A: Tabah Foundation, as its name indicates, is an organisation that is directly connected to the vision and mission of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him), who inhabited and resided in Tabah, which is also one of the names of Madina, the City of Light. Tabah's synonymity with Madina thus represents for the Muslim everything that Madina represents, and

stirs up in them the same meanings and emotions that Madina stirs up. The very name of Tabah Foundation indicates our commitment to the Prophetic message and model, as inspired by the Divine discourse, and the rich and vast interpretive tradition that formed and developed around these two sources. It is Tabah Foundation's dedication and loyalty to this Qur'anic and Prophetic discourse and the fourteen centuries long scholarly tradition that supports it that has been a primary motivation for my *raison d'être* here at Tabah.

Tabah Foundation is based in the UAE, which in turn is part of the Middle East and which in turn has a long and checked history with the near and far West, or Europe and North America. A great deal of what accounts for the current global situation is as a direct result of the dynamic that exists between East and West (Northern Hemisphere Politics) historically and currently.

The UAE represents the epicentre of globalization, cosmopolitanism and multiculturalism in the Middle East if

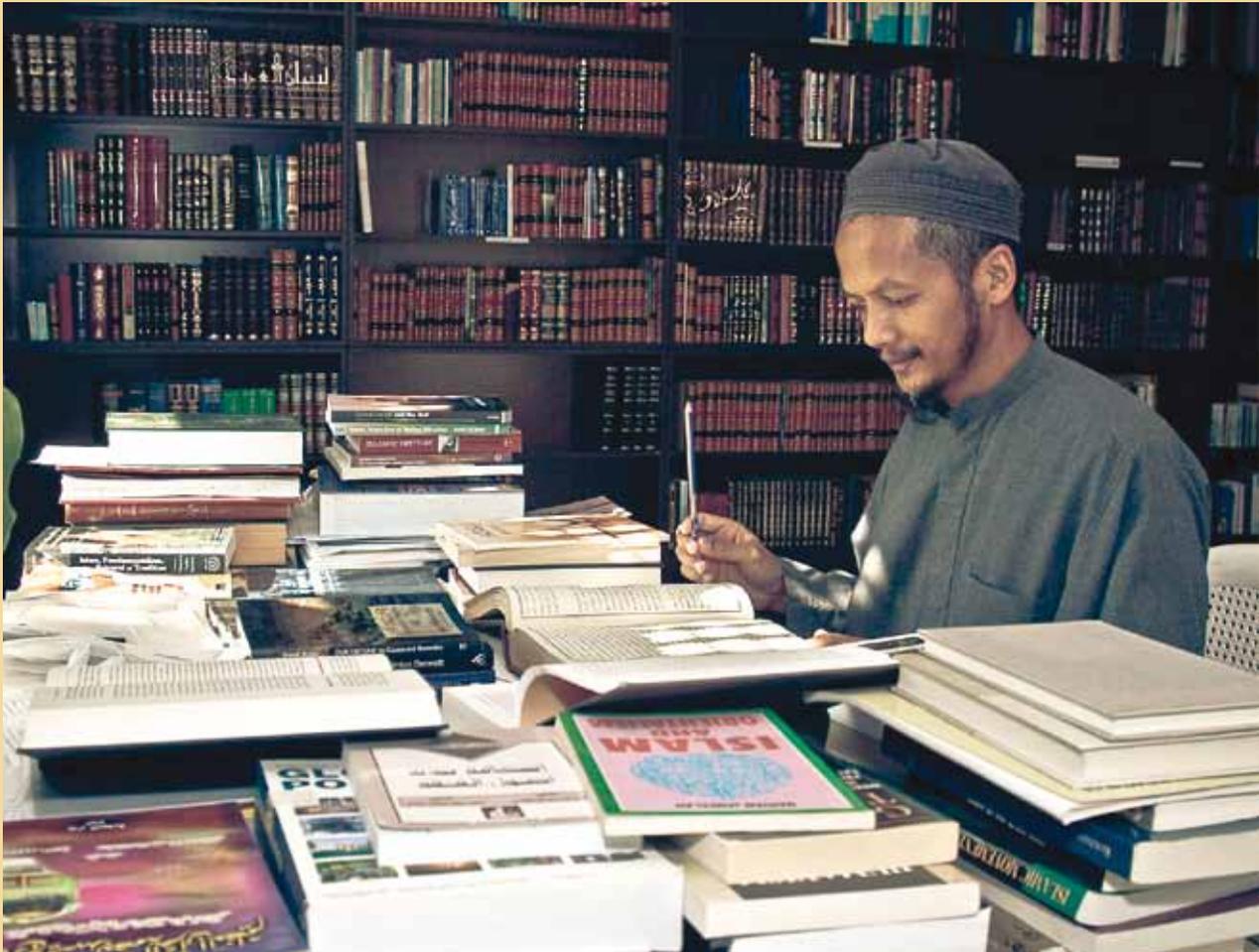
not the world. If this is where the world is tending towards then this is the place to be, especially for those Muslim thinkers and workers who wish to see how tradition is experiencing the full brunt of a modern global encounter of gigantic proportions, and how to best express and represent tradition in such a context. The UAE, therefore, makes for groundbreaking and pioneering work on the Islamic tradition and contemporary global world front.

Lastly, as Muslims are making their way through trying and tumultuous times – times of great upheaval and accelerated change – Tabah Foundation provides an excellent platform for emerging Muslim researchers and scholars to develop, under the care and guidance of competent senior researchers, a wide array of skills that will serve them and the communities and organisations in which they will be operating in.

**Q: What do you think Tabah Foundation's publications contribute to the Academic community as a whole, and how are they different?**

## THE TABAH TEAM

> continued from previous page



*Sheikh Amienoollah in Tabah research Library*

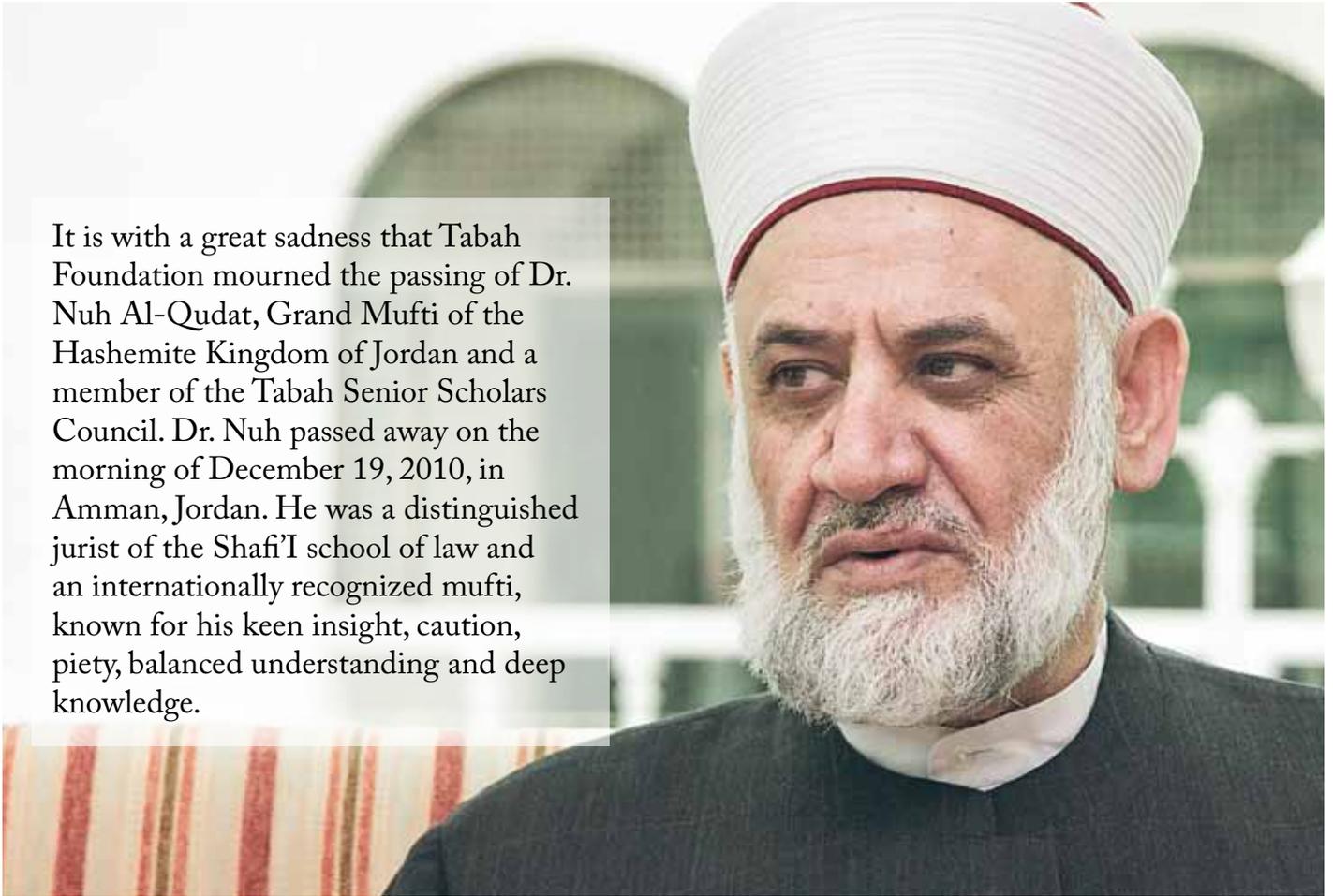
**Tabah Foundation, as its name indicates, is an organisation that is directly connected to the vision and mission of the Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings be upon him),**

A: Firstly, as a Muslim organisation Tabah puts out high quality and timely research based on in-depth analyses, and critical assessments of current issues, events and scenarios. These analyses and assessments, if they are themselves not accompanied by a grounded and authentic Islamic response, often invite the Islamic scholarly community to come up with such a response by providing a thorough grounding and understanding of the particular contemporary issue under scrutiny. So one can say that Tabah research publications attempt to be firmly grounded in and fully conversant with both the contemporary analysis and assessment on the one hand and the traditional Islamic response and perspective on other. Most contemporary research of an Islamic nature falls short in one or both of these components; that is to say, a strong analysis and assessment coupled with a weak Islamic response, or a strong Islamic response coupled with a weak analysis and assessment or both are weak. Also, you might find both elements to be strong but the Islamic response is not necessarily one that is grounded in tradition and traditional methodology couched in modern terms.

# Dr. Nuh Al-Qudat

Member of the Tabah Senior Scholars Council

It is with a great sadness that Tabah Foundation mourned the passing of Dr. Nuh Al-Qudat, Grand Mufti of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan and a member of the Tabah Senior Scholars Council. Dr. Nuh passed away on the morning of December 19, 2010, in Amman, Jordan. He was a distinguished jurist of the Shafi'i school of law and an internationally recognized mufti, known for his keen insight, caution, piety, balanced understanding and deep knowledge.



Shaykh Dr. Nuh Al-Qudat was born in the Ain Djennah, Ajlun District, Jordan in 1939 to a family of academics and scholars. His late father, Ali Salman (may God have mercy on his soul), was also a scholar of the shafi'i school of law and authorised him with licences to transmit the knowledge he had gained (Ijaza) and introduced him to some of the most prominent scholars in the Levant region (Shaam).

Dr. Nuh completed his primary education in Jordan before traveling to Damascus in 1954. He spent seven years seeking sacred knowledge at the Islamic Studies Institute founded by his father's teacher, Shaykh Ali Al-Daqr (may God have mercy on his soul), and then attended Damascus University, where he later attained his degree through the Shari'a Department. In 1977, he travelled to Cairo to pursue his Masters degree in Comparative Fiqh at the distinguished

Al-Azhar University. He studied the theory of Islamic jurisprudence (usul al-fiqh) with Shaykh Dr. Abdul-Ghani Abdul-Khaliq and comparative jurisprudence with Shaykh Hassan Al-Shadhili. He also attended the lessons on spirituality (tasawuff) of the Shaykh of Al-Azhar, Abdul-Halim Mahmud (may God have mercy on his soul). He graduated in 1980 and then pursued a PhD at the Imam Muhammad bin Sa'ud Islamic University in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He graduated in 1986.

Thereafter, Dr. Nuh served a tenure as the Mufti of the Armed Forces of Jordan, entering as lieutenant and finishing as a Major-General in 1992. He was then appointed as the Chief Islamic Justice of Jordan (Qadi al-Qudat) in the same year. He resigned from this position a year later and devoted his time to teaching sacred knowledge at his

mosque and the nearby University of Yarmuk and Jarash.

In 1996, Dr. Nuh was appointed Ambassador of Jordan to Iran, and served this position until 2001. In 2004, he moved to the United Arab Emirates, where he worked as head of the UAE's Fatwa Authority as an advisor at the Ministry of Justice, Endowments and Islamic Affairs, and as advisor to the Minister of Higher Education. In 2007 he was appointed as Grand Mufti of The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan.

Dr. Nuh was an exemplary scholar and an erudite master of Islamic jurisprudence. He was known by his contemporaries as a "mufti's mufti", alluding to his scrupulous approach in issuing religious edicts. He contributed many valuable written works which include books, dissertations and lectures.

---

---

# NEWS AT TABAH

---

---

## MICHAEL J. MURRAY VISITS TABAH FOUNDATION

### JOHN TEMPLETON FOUNDATION

Dr. Michael J. Murray from the John Templeton Foundation paid a visit to Tabah Foundation in Abu Dhabi where he was received by Habib Ali Al-Jifri and met with the Tabah team. Dr. Murray was given an overview of the Foundation, its vision and key goals and some of the ongoing projects at the Research department. He expressed his interest in exploring collaborative opportunities between the two foundations.

Dr. Michael J. Murray is vice president of philosophy and theology at the Foundation and responsible for creating research initiatives that engage the Foundation's "Big Questions" in a broad range of fields.

The John Templeton Foundation was established in 1987 in Philadelphia, USA, and serves as a philanthropic catalyst for discoveries relating to the "Big Questions" of human purpose and ultimate reality. The Foundation supports research on subjects ranging from complexity, evolution, and infinity to creativity, forgiveness, love, and free will through an endowment which reached \$6 billion in 2011. It encourages informed dialogue among scientists, philosophers, and theologians.

## SHAYKH WALEAD MOSAAD TALKS ABOUT VIOLENCE

Tabah Foundation's Shaykh Walead Mosaad addressed a diverse audience of public officials, local law enforcement officials and members of Muslim as well as other faith communities on the topic of domestic violence and abuse in Cardiff, Wales. He specifically spoke about the dangers of manipulating religious texts to justify domestic violence and abuse and clearly indicated that domestic violence and abuse are unequivocally prohibited and not sanctioned by Islam.



He also held a workshop with police officials and members of the counter extremism task force in Cardiff on the subject of religious extremism and the local community. He mentioned that social and economic deprivation contribute to a culture of extremism as well as the lack of a balanced and moderate Islamic discourse in many Muslim communities of the West.

## IMAN'S CEO AND FOUNDER VISITS TABAH



Rami Nashashibi giving a lecture in Washington D.C.

Rami Nashashibi, Executive Director of the Inner-City Muslim Action Network (IMAN) from Chicago, visited Tabah Foundation's headquarters in Abu Dhabi. He was introduced to the work of the foundation and discussed the role of Muslim organisations involved in educational and cultural literacy, as well as the importance of building professional institutions that faithfully uphold core Islamic values. Rami talked about the work of IMAN and pointed out the need for cooperation between Muslim organisations to better leverage scarce resources and talents.

## REPRESENTATIVES FROM JAPAN'S REIMEI ISLAMIC SOCIETY VISIT TABAH

Prof. Hasan Nakata ko, Director of Japan's Muslim Association and Head of Translators at the Reimei Islamic Society, together with Dr. Mohammad Jabasini, co-founder of the Reimei Islamic Society for the Promotion of Islamic Sciences and Culture called in at our Tabah offices in Abu Dhabi. Dr. Mohammad has published many research papers in Human Genetics, in addition to several essays and Islamic studies and is actively

involved in Islamic non-profit work in Japan. They met with Nouredin Harthi organizational development Director, Wassim Khashoggi, External Relations Director and Ebtihal Al Jifri General Director Assistant and were given an overview of the workings of Tabah's different departments and ongoing projects.

## HABIB UMAR BIN HAFIZ, DEAN OF DAR AL-MUSTAFA, TARIM ADDRESSES THE TABAH TEAM



Al Habib Omar Bin Hafeez with some Tabah members

Habib 'Umar bin Hafiz, Dean of the Dar Al-Mustafa institute in Tarim, Yemen, delivered a lecture for the Tabah team at the Tabah Intellectual Tent. He spoke about the ethical dimensions of volunteering and how to maintain an active role in the dissemination of the faith. He also discussed volunteerism in Islamic work and the importance of commitment, hard work, perseverance and sacrifice in the pursuit of such noble activities.

## GENERAL DIRECTOR'S TOUR OF FRANCE

As part of a visit to France with Shaykh Dr. M. Saeed Ramadan al-Bouti, Tabah's General Director Al Habib Ali Aljifri conducted lectures and held meetings and talks at the recently established association "Lumière d'Islam en Occident" (Light of Islam in the West) for serving new Muslims in FRANCE. Al Habib Ali led the Al Jumua'a Prayer at the Grand Mosque of Evry where he delivered a lecture on the importance of following The Prophet's values (peace be upon him).

*Continued on page 12*

# NEWS AT TABAH

## GENERAL DIRECTOR'S TOUR OF FRANCE CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

Al Habib Ali also called in at the “Aba’ wa Banooon” (Fathers and Sons) centre, established fifteen years ago by Arab Muslims in France in order to preserve their ties with Arabic Islamic culture. There, he delivered a talk stressing the role the new generation should play in fostering an Islamic French identity through positive interactions with others.

## DEEN TIGHT SCREENED IN COPENHAGEN AND KUALA LUMPUR

Deen Tight, a film made by Tabah Foundation brings to the screen the untold story of American Muslims struggling to find a balance between their culture and their religion. The story focuses on the perceived conflict between traditional religious ideals and modernity.



Director Mustafa Davis interviews Mutah Beale, a former member of Tupac Shakur’s rap group the Outlawz during the filming of “Dean Tight.”

After a screening of the documentary in Copenhagen, Denmark, Muslim American screenwriter Mustafa Davis was welcomed by US Embassy Cultural Affairs Officer Nicholas Papp in Kuala Lumpur. A great number of engaging Muslim youth attended the screening organised by Angkatan Belia Islam Malaysia (ABIM), Young Muslim Projects and Arabic Academy Malaysia at the Annexe Gallery in Kuala Lumpur’s Central Market.

## TABAH’S GENERAL DIRECTOR ADDRESSES THE EUROPEAN ACADEMY OF BRUSSELS

Attending the 15th anniversary celebrations of the European Academy of Sciences and Islamic Culture in Brussels, Tabah’s communications and external



Habib Ali gives a lecture at the European Academy in Brussels

relations director, Wassim Khashoggi and Shaykh Walead Mosaad, project manager for culture and education, both expressed Tabah’s support towards the Academy’s efforts in disseminating traditional Islamic knowledge to the European community. Attendees, including prominent names from amongst Belgian society, listened to a pre-recorded message sent by Tabah’s General Director Habib Ali Al-Jifri in which he conveyed his good wishes and stressed the importance of Islamic schools adopting authentic methods in preserving an Islamic identity.

## PROMINENT WEBSITE IS LAUNCHED



Homepage of the Naseem Al Sham Website

Tabah Foundation’s web communications executive, Nehad Sherif, recently helped re-launch the Naseem Al Sham website. The site serves as an authentic reference for students and Muslims in general who are seeking trusted sources of knowledge and research. It aims at highlighting and disseminating the vision of the erudite scholar, Shaykh Dr. M. Saeed Ramadan al-Bouti, through a copious library of sermons, lessons, lectures, research material, studies and religious edicts (fatawa) answered by the Shaykh and members of what is known as the “Fatwa Committee”, which is comprised of major scholars in Syria and other prominent scholars.

## ZAYED HOUSE COLLABORATION COMPLETED



A three year collaboration between Tabah Foundation and Zayed House for Islamic Culture has now been successfully concluded. In the past three years Tabah Foundation has produced the first phase of a new Muslim curriculum that adheres to the highest pedagogical standards. Additionally, Tabah has contributed significantly to the strategic development of Zayed House by assisting it in formalizing a comprehensive development plan for the next five years to establish Zayed House as a world leading cultural center. Despite the conclusion of the formal agreement, Tabah Foundation will continue providing support and offering its assistance to Zayed House as the need arises.

## A NEW ROLE FOR SHAYKH JIHAD BROWN

After a number of years spent in critical developmental service in the position of Director of Research, Shaykh



Jihad Hashim Brown has taken on the role of Senior Academic Advisor at Tabah Foundation. In this capacity, Shaykh Jihad Brown will concentrate more on research and writing in areas such as law, theology and contemporary issues and in the continuation of his higher studies at Cambridge University in UK.



## CNN INTERVIEWS TABAH’S SENIOR ACADEMIC ADVISOR

Shaykh Jihad Hashim Brown was interviewed by CNN at the Sheikh Zayed Grand Mosque in Abu Dhabi. The conversation focused on current concerns and issues facing Muslim youth today and the role of Islam in the promotion of peace and how Ramadan can be a chance to reflect on that.

## NEW COMPUTER SYSTEM KEEPS TABAH CONNECTED ACADEMIC ADVISOR



Tabah IT Manager Talibudeen Peebles

Tabah Foundation successfully implemented Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP), an integrated computer-based system used to manage internal and external resources. This will facilitate the flow of information between all units within the Foundation and consolidate all business operations into a uniform, enterprise-wide environment.

## TABAH TO COLLABORATE ON AN ICONIC BOOK ABOUT MAKKAH



Tabah Foundation has signed a strategic editorial partnership with Kraken Opus Media, a major international publishing company headquartered in London. Tabah Foundation and Kraken Opus Media will work together on Journey to Makkah Opus, a definitive photographic and written account illustrating the annual pilgrimage where three million Muslims travel to the holy city of Makkah from all over the world.

Part of Tabah Foundation's role as described by Ebtihal Al Jifri General Director Assistant and Opus project manager, will be the contribution of its expertise in providing essential first-hand accounts by historical and contemporary pilgrims, alongside chapters by world-renowned Islamic scholars and academics explaining the most important rituals and aspects of Hajj.

# CONFERENCES AND SEMINARS

## 15 CENTURIES OF LOVE & AFFECTION

A symposium co-organised by Zayed University, the General Authority of Islamic Affairs and Endowments and Tabah Foundation on Muslim and Coptic-Christian Relations in Egypt was held at Zayed University in Abu Dhabi. The event was initiated by H.E. Sheikh Nahyan Mubarak Al-Nahyan and the speakers included Pastor Ishaq El Anba Bishoy of the Saint Anthony Coptic Orthodox Cathedral in Abu Dhabi and Habib Ali al-Jifri, General Director of Tabah Foundation.



from right: H.E. the US ambassador to the UAE, Habib Ali AL Jifri, H.H. Sh. Nhayan bin mubarak Al Nhayan, and paster Ishaq El Anba Bishoy

Proceedings began with an introduction by H.E. Sheikh Nahyan who emphasized the importance of such an occasion in the aftermath of tragic events that occurred in Alexandria in December 2010. He said the event would honour and recall the long history of love and affection governing Muslim-Coptic Christian relations in Egypt and how these principles of co-existence and tolerance were embodied by the late Sheikh Zayed (may God have mercy on his soul) and the UAE under H. H. Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Pastor Ishaq opened his address saying that the Holy Books were not sent for the misfortune of people, but to enlighten humanity and help mankind attain felicity in this life and the hereafter. He added that there was much in common between Muslims and Coptic-Christians who had lived together as an example of tolerance in the Middle East.

The final word was delivered by Habib Ali al-Jifri, who praised Pastor Ishaq's sincerity and called for a more balanced understanding of the role of religion within societies. Theological differences between religions were not meant to be points of divergence and conflict, he said. Instead, religion can foster ties of mutual respect and love.



Tabah General Director Habib Ali Al Jifri addresses the audience at Zayed University next to Pastor Ishaq El Anba Bishoy

Continued on page 12

### 15 CENTURIES OF LOVE ... CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13



From right : H.E the US ambassador to the UAE, Habib Ali AL Jifri, and Al Sayyed Ali Al Hashmi

Habib Ali explained the strong link between Muslims and Christians and that the infliction of harm to one another was prohibited because of it, adding that whoever inflicts harm on them shall never smell the fragrance of Paradise. He emphasised his belief that institutions such as Al-Azhar needed to reclaim their historical role as the ‘conscience of religion’ in Egypt, and that history had testified to the balance which permeated society when they were so. Habib Ali praised the efforts of the Shaykh of Al-Azhar, Dr. Ahmad Tayyab, the Grand Mufti of Egypt, Dr. Ali Gomaa, and the Minister of Religious Affairs & Endowments for their strong condemnation of the Alexandria incident.

In conclusion, he affirmed that both Christians and Muslims should assume responsibility in standing against extremism arising from both sides, expressing the need to implement the “A Common Word” initiative in the Middle East to serve interfaith dialogue.

### ISLAMIC MODERATION AND SOBRIETY: THE HADRAMAWT SCHOOL MODEL



Sheikh Dr. Al Bouti gives the first lecture at the conference

Headed by the Guest of Honour Shaykh Al Bouti, Tabah’s Senior Scholars Council member and Ex-Head of the Religions Department at the University of Damascus representatives from Tabah Foundation including General Direc-

tor Al Habib Ali Aljifri, Nouredine Harthi, Organizational Division Director, Walead Mosaad, Project Manager for Culture and Education, Abu Baker Bani Hashem, Public Relations Officer and Ahmed Al Saqqaf, Project Manager participated in a conference held in Yemen entitled “Islamic moderation and sobriety: Hadhramout school model”. Organized by Tabah Foundation, Islamic Education Centres and Dar Al Mustafa for Islamic Studies in Tarim, Hadramout



Al Habib Abu Bakr Al Mashhour welcomes Sh. Al Bouti

between 21st and 23rd December, the conference was in line with the activities of the city which was designated as the Capital of the Islamic Culture for 2010.

The event hosted, in addition to prominent scholars from all over the world Shaykh Abdul Hakim Murad, a professor of the University of Cambridge, Dr. Fuad Nahdi, Advisor of Islamic Affairs in the United Kingdom, as well as Dr. Mohammad Aqil Ali Mahdi, a professor of religion and philosophy at the Faculty of Theology at the University of Humanism Qadah Darul-imaan in Malaysia.

Discussion ranged from the historical roles of religious schools in Tarim and the role of the Hadrami people in proliferating Islam, to the historical relationship between Hadramout and the rest of world, moderation and attitudes towards challenges such as terrorism, violence, fanaticism, extremism, aggression and poverty.

### TABAH’S GENERAL DIRECTOR’S TRIP TO CANADA

Accompanied by Wassim Khashoggi, Communications and External Relations Director, Abaas Chaudhry, Associate Project Manager, Alawi Aljifri, Private

Affairs Manager, Al Habib Ali Al Jifri, General Director of Tabah, delivered the penultimate lecture of the 9th annual ‘Reviving the Islamic Spirit’ convention in Toronto in 2010. Considering the Ten Commandments from an Islamic scholarly perspective, he offered a practical account of the ways in which they applied to modern life.



Habib Ali gives his lecture at RIS convention in Canada

Al Habib Ali then addressed the hundreds of young convention volunteers together with Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah and Imam Zaid Shakir, expressing their appreciation and hope for those who had offered their time and efforts towards the success of the event.

As part of the convention’s Knowledge Retreat programme, Al Habib Ali delivered his first lesson on “A Portrait of the Prophet, upon him be peace” (al-Sham’ail), from the book “al-Shama’il al-Muhammadiya” by Imam al-Tirmidhi. In the closing session, Al Habib Ali attributed his chain of transmission back to Imam al-Tirmidhi and offered a license (ijaza) to the participants to teach and convey that which they had studied with him.

Al Habib Ali met with Shaykh Hamza Yusuf and Dr. Umar Faruq Abd-Allah to discuss a number of other pertinent issues. He was also introduced to Chris Hedges, author of Empires of Illusion, who shared with him some of the traumas he witnessed as a war reporter and how this had led him towards his current work.

TABAH DELEGATES ATTEND

## THE MARDIN CONFERENCE

MARDIN, TURKEY



H.E. Sheikh Abdullah Bin Bayyah & Sheikh Jihad Brown from Tabah

Led by Habib Ali Al-Jifri and Shaykh Jihad Brown, including Alawi al-Jifri, a delegation from Tabah Foundation participated in the Mardin Conference in March 2010. The event saw a prominent group of academics, scholars and theologians from across the Muslim world convene in the historical city of Mardin to specifically discuss the implications of the “Mardin” fatwa (legal edict) penned by Ibn Taymiyya, a classical scholar of the 13th century, and the rules for writing and understanding legal edicts. The conference closed with the signing of a New Mardin Declaration, which, amongst other things, urged the faithful to live up to Islam’s high moral and ethical values, condemning in the strongest terms the vigilantism of radicals and urging all to foster greater peace and conviviality.

### TABAH’S GENERAL DIRECTOR TAKES PART IN THE HASHEMITE SCIENTIFIC COUNCILS, JORDAN

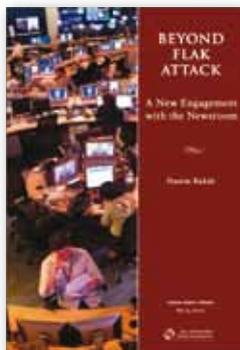
Habib Ali Aljifri participated in the Hashemite Scientific Councils that were held under the high royal patronage by the Jordanian Ministry of Endowments and Islamic Affairs. Several Jordanian and international scholars and well-known personalities participated in the event which took place at the King Abdullah I Mosque in Abdali. Habib Ali took part in the discussion on domestic violence, examining the causes of violence and ways in which to deal with it, with particular reference to the practice of da’wa. He noted that some aspects of da’wa had been overlooked and as a result, domestic violence was manifesting in many forms.

Al Habib Ali also delivered a lecture at the Palace of Culture entitled “Ramadan and the Nation” in which he highlighted the importance of the Holy Month for Muslims as a way to repent and return to Islamic values in their dealings with each other.

---

# Tabah's Latest Research Papers

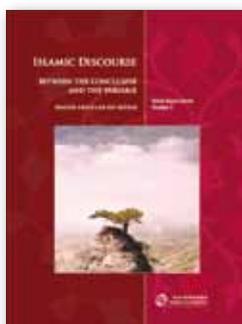
---



## **BEYOND FLAK ATTACK: A NEW ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NEWSROOM** [NAZIM BAKSH]

This essay is written for Muslim activists and scholars who are alarmed at today's headlines and would like to engage the mass media in the hope of balancing its predominantly negative reporting with positive stories pertaining to Islam and Muslims.

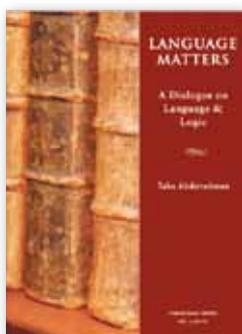
---



## **ISLAMIC DISCOURSE: BETWEEN THE CONCLUSIVE AND THE VARIABLE** [SH. ABDULLAH BIN BAYYAH]

Perhaps the most looming challenge before Islam today is to be understood. In the monograph that follows, the eminent jurist and thinker, Shaykh Bin Bayyah outlines the components of a sound and effective Islamic discourse, one that delivers on its purpose and fulfils its aims. He goes on to treat the qualities that must accompany a sound and grounded, yet engaged discourse, of tolerance, reconciliation, and facilitation.

---



## **LANGUAGE MATTERS A DIALOGUE ON LANGUAGE AND LOGIC** [DR. TAHA ABDERRAHMAN]

The essay seeks to illuminate new perspectives and insights on linguistics and language-related topics as a significant component of the intellectual project of Dr. Taha Abderrahman. As one of the most eminent contemporary Muslim thinkers, selected questions raised by some of his foremost students and colleagues allow the author to dwell and expand on issues relating to logic and philosophy, touching briefly on matters of politics, religion, and theology.

---



## **ISLAM-WEST DIALOGUE A CRITICAL ANALYSIS OF THE DAVOS REPORT** [IRFANA HASHEMI]

This brief introduces the report, discusses its main findings, and offers suggestions on how Muslim scholars and opinion leaders can contribute to the dialogue in a meaningful way. This report is an opportunity for Muslim scholars to build on the discussion already in progress, share best practices on how to further promote dialogue, and become better equipped to answer the needs of diverse Muslim communities.

---