

Afghanistan Diaspora Community and Network: Fieldwork Report in Malaysia

Year: 2015

Place of Fieldwork: Malaysia

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Key Words: Afghanistan, Diaspora, Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, Malaysia

- Research background

My research is about Muslim diaspora communities in general, and the Afghan diaspora community in Malaysia in particular, focusing on the common bonds among these communities. Islam is among the most important bonds and is also one that is shared by the diaspora community and their Muslim host society, when they live in a Muslim country.

- Research purpose and aim

The purpose of my research is to examine the community and networks of the diaspora from Afghanistan in other countries, and specifically, Malaysia. Significant numbers of people became part of this diaspora, leaving Afghanistan, because of chronic warfare in their home country. There has been long term, ongoing warfare in Afghanistan. Afghans have two choices when they flee from their home country. Firstly, they can head to an Islamic country, such as Pakistan, Iran, the UAE, or Malaysia. Secondly, they could choose a non-Islamic country, especially in Western Europe or North America. My research focuses on understanding more about such people living in a Muslim country.

- Results and achievements of fieldwork

During fieldwork in Malaysia, I was able to explore the Islam and Malay cultures. For example, I went to Hari Raya Puasa (Celebration end of the Ramaḍān), I visited Merdeka Square on Independence Day of Malaysia, and I joined four Malaysian wedding ceremonies. I was interested in Malaysian weddings, because they involve mixing the cultures of Islam and Malaysia. Moreover, I was able to meet Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali. He is an intellectual leader of international influence, originally from Afghanistan, who has been very active in Malaysia.

- Implications and impact on future research

I had a very valuable experience during fieldwork, and it was fulfilling. However, I lacked sufficient background knowledge about Malaysia's history. I would like to make more adequate preparations with regard to knowing more about Malaysia and Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali, before I visit again. At that time, I would like to have more in-depth discussions with Prof. Dr. Kamali.



←Interview with Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali
(Prof. Dr. Mohammad Hashim Kamali pictured at left)
(October 02, 2015)



←During the marriage contract, *Akad Nikah*.
(August 29, 2015)



↑Merdeka Square on Independence Day of Malaysia (August 31, 2015)