

# Muslim Culture for Law Enforcement



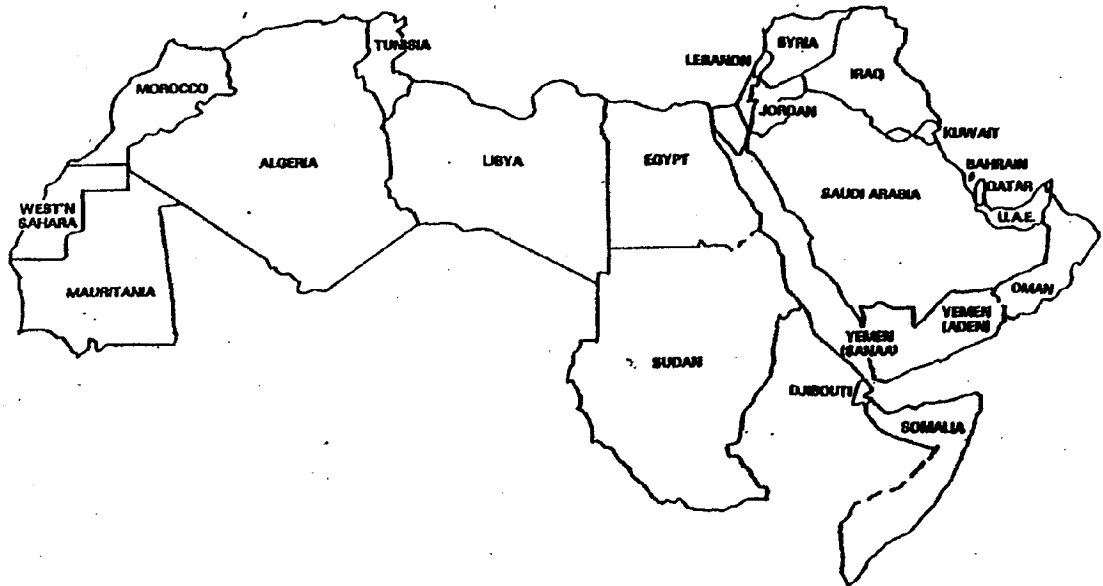
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## Considerations when interacting with Muslims



# THE ARABS

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## General rules for Islamic names and titles:

### **1- Personal names :**

In most cases the personal name is selected from a repertoire of Islamic tradition. The names and epithets of the Prophet, his followers, Biblical figures who appear in the Koran. Also, compounds using the names of God are especially popular and widespread in the Islamic World. Most of these names were in use in pre-Islamic Arabia. They were popular because they were thought to bring good luck.

### **2- Family names :**

The origin of an individual is indicated by naming his father, grandfather and so on in patronymical sequence. The marginal rules (secondary) that follow are details as to tribal or clan affiliation, place of birth and origin or residence, profession of ancestor and additional nick-names and honorifics which sometimes are also used as personal names.

**General guidelines for personal (first) names:**

**A) Group #1:**

From the Arabic root ( HMD) "Praise" .  
**Mohamad , Ahmad , Hamid , Mahmoud etc...**  
These are by far the most common names that derive  
from the Prophet Muhammad.

**B) Group #2:**

Belong to the Companions of the Prophet and /or bring  
good fortune. These include male and female names.  
For males let us consider **Hasan, Hussein, Hassaan** which  
have the Arabic root of ( HSN) meaning "good , beautifull".  
Also **Sa'd , Sa'id , Mas'ud** which come from the root  
(S'D) "luck"; **Umar and Amr** "life"; **Zaid , Zayed and Yazid**  
from the root (ZYD) "to grow". Other common names are  
**Ali** ( very dear to Shia muslims ) , **Mustafa** ( the Prophet's  
Surname ). This group also includes a number of chivalrous  
names like **Fares** (knight) , **Asad** (lion), **Nimir** (tiger) and  
**Fahd** (leopard).  
For females common names are **Amina** the Prophet's mother.  
**Aisha , Zaynab and Fatima** are very popular because they  
were names of the Prophet's wives and daughter .

**C) Group#3:**

The names of Biblical figures who are mentioned in the Koran  
and are revered as Prophets became widespread in the Arab  
World . These are **Ibrahim** (Abraham) , **Isma'il** (Ishmael) ,  
**Ishaq** (Isaac) , **Yaqub** (Jacob) , **Yusuf** (Joseph) , **Musa** (Moses),  
**Harun** (Aaron) , **Daoud** (David) , **Suleyman** (Salomon) ,  
**Isa** (Jesus) , **Yahya** (John the Baptist) , and **Maryam** (Mary).

#### D) Group#4:

This is a distinct category of composed (two part) names. Again it traces its origins in the *Koran* and is connected with the name of god or Allah in Arabic. According to The Holy Scriptures Allah has "99 beautiful names".

Abd + Allah = AbdAllah (slave of God)

Abd + el-Rahman = Abd el-Rahman (slave of the Merciful)

Abd + el-Malik = Abd el-Malik (slave of the King)

Abd + el-Kadir = Abd el-Kadir (slave of the Powerful)

Abd + el or al multiplied by 99 different attributes of God.

The Grammatical explanation for composed names is the Annexation factor ( *genetif construction* ), in other words You add a noun to a noun i.e the building's entrance. We Shall only give a few examples of such names here:

Saif + el-din = Saif e-din ( sword of religion)

Nour + el-din = Nour e-din ( light of religion )

Salah + el-din = Salah e-din ( Saladin )

Nasr + Allah = NasrAllah ( victory of God )

Khair+ Allah = KhairAllah ( richness of God )

Saif + Allah = SaifAllah ( sword of God )

#### Group#5 :

Modern Arabic names that are not necessarily from the Koranic tradition :

Sami , Yaman , Amjad , Majed , Taha etc...

General Guidelines for construction of last names and Titles :

1- KUNYA :

Indicates the bearer of the name as father of or mother of :

*ABU* : Father of so and so

*UMM* : Mother of so and so

Originally it contained the name of the Eldest son and / or the only son. Later , even people without children received a Kunya . Sometimes a young man who had become of age received a Kunya as a sign of his maturity. It is used in polite and direct speech amongst friends and equals and in respectful reference to someone of special importance ( i.e. when an author mentions his teacher ).

Examples :

*The Prophet Mohamad* was called Abu-l Quasim . He was The father of a boy called Quasim.

2- LAQAB :

Widely used in the Arab and Islamic world , it suggests a quality , virtue and attribute of the bearer. It has the function of a nickname.

Examples :

Abu al barakat ( the father of the blessings )

Abu Nidal ( the father of struggle )

Abu Amar ( Yasser Arafat's nom de guerre )

Abu Nuwas ( famous Arab poet )

### 3- NASAB :

In this case the determining factor is the ancestry lineage through the father and forefathers.

**Ibn or bin** = son of , but only bin is used in a genealogy

**bint** = daughter of

Examples :

The prophet Mohammad's genealogy :

*Muhammad bin AbdAllah bin Abd el-Muttalib bin Hashim*

The prophet's daughter's genealogy :

*Fatimah bint Muhammad bin AbdAllah bin Abd el-Muttalib*

The word bin or bint is often omitted today except for Saudi Arabia , Algeria , Marocco and Tunisia .

*Sometimes there is at the end of a chain of names the name , surname or title of an important ancestor which is used for several generations of his descendants as a family name .*

Example :

Osama bin Laden , the later being the founder of the Family .

*The use of Ibn is more limited and applies to a one time important personality in Islamic history such as:*

**Ibn Khaldun** ( famous historian who was the descendant of an old Spanish- Arab family )

**Ibn al-Shihna** ( after an ancestor who held the post of Chief of police )

**Ibn Battuta** ( famous Arab narrator who traveled the World )

**Ibn Taymiyya** ( famous radical Islamic preacher )

**Ibn Saoud** ( founder of the kingdom of Saudi Arabia )

#### 4-NISBA :

A name which denotes the clans , the ruling families of the Arab bedouin tribes . It also denotes the origin , place of residence, profession of ancestor. Here , we shall only mention two main types of family affiliation .

al + suffix i = family name ; al derived from the word *ahl* meaning origin or clan affiliation.

Examples :

##### A- relation to location :

**Ahmad al-Quorayshi** ( from the tribe of Quoraysh )  
**Hussein al-Baghdadi** ( origins from the city of Baghdad )  
**Mahmoud al-Halabi** ( from the city of Alepo )

##### B- relation to profession :

**Karim al-Haddad** ( ancestor was a carpenter )  
**Rachid al-Khatib** ( ancestor was a preacher )  
**Bassel al-Baroudi** ( ancestor was dealing in gun powder )

- *These examples do not form a comprehensive list of Nisba relations*

#### 5- Honorific Islamic titles of rulers :

**Amir al-Mu'minin** = Commander of the faithful

**Sheikh** = head of a local tribe , religious leader for Sunnis or the mayor of a city .

**Mufti** = religious leader for Sunni muslims , also can be a synonym of sheikh. The Grand Mufti of the Republic of Syria or Turkey are good examples.

*The titles Ayatollah , Hojjatoleslam and Mullah are not Arabic and come from Persia . They typically refer to the Shia clergy.*

*A study of family names of 10 Arab head of states :*

**1- SYRIA :**

**Hafez el-Assad and son Bachar al-Assad ; Assad = lion in Arabic , the original name was Wahhish before 1927. Hafez's gandfather defeated a defiant Turkish wrestler in northwest Syria around the turn of the 20'th century. Ali Assad , Hafez's father changed the name to Assad upon the request of the elders of his town. This move came because he had distinguished himself as a leader of his village. The name "Wahhish" means savage beast in Arabic.**

**2-IRAK :**

**Saddam Hussein Al-Takriti ; Hussein was his father's name. Al-Takriti comes after the city of Takrit , his native town north of Baghdad.**

**3-EGYPT :**

**Hussni Mubarak ; Mubarak means the blessed , it was also his father's name. In Egypt , most people adopt their father's name .Others have family names after social status , profession or home town such as Anwar Sadat , Sadat means he who masters.**

**4-SAUDI-ARABIA :**

**King Fahd bin Abd el-Aziz Al Saud Custodian of the Holy Shrines. Abd el-Aziz was the father's name and Al-Saud was the founder of the dynasty.**

#### 5- KUWAIT :

Emir Jaber Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah ; Al-Ahmad was the father's name and Al-Sabah was the founder's name. In this country the bin of the father is replaced by al. So it reads Prince Jaber son of Ahmad of the tribe of Al-Sabah.

#### 6-YEMEN :

Ali Abd Allah Saleh ; Abd Allah was the name of his father and Saleh was the grandfather's name.

#### 7-LIBYA :

Mu' ammar Al-Qadafi ; in this part of the Arab world local customs varie. In this case Quadafi comes from the expression Quadaf ad-dam " he who throws blood."

#### 8-ALGERIA :

Abd el-Aziz Bouteflika ; bou comes from abou meaning father, Taflik is best translated as splitting or cleavage. In Algeria , many family names come from the name of eldest son or only son of the founder of family.

#### 9-MAURITANIA :

Mu'awiya Ould Sid Ahmad Taya ; ould means son and is used in this part of the world as bin .Sid Ahmad was his father's name , Sid being a title meaning "my lord or Sir". Taya was the founder of the family.

#### 10-SOUDAN :

Omar al-Bashir ; Bashir was the name of the family's Founder.

### Objectives

- Definitions of Muslim terms
- Languages spoken by Muslims
- Prohibitions and Pillars of Islam
- Interviewing Muslims/Arabs
- Entering a Muslim/Arab home
- Perceptions of Arabs and Americans

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### Definitions

- Jihad/Jihadi
- Modern Jihad - Holy war
- Original Jihad - Inner struggle
- Jihadi is a person who has or will commit Jihad.

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### Definitions - cont...

- Hajj/Hajji
- Hajj is the pilgrimage
- Hajji is what a person is called who has completed the pilgrimage

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**Definitions – cont...**

- Masjid/Mosque
- Masjid is the Muslim term for the place of worship.
- Mosque is the English word for the place of worship.

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**Definitions – cont...**

- Islam/Muslim/Arab
- Islam is the religion followed by Muslims.
- Muslims are the people that follow the religion.
- Arabs are the people that speak the language and follow the culture.

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**Distribution of Muslims**

AFRICA	308,660,000	27.4%
ASIA	778,362,000	69.1%
EUROPE	32,032,000	2.8%
LATIN AMERICA	1,356,000	0.1%
NORTH AMERICA	5,530,000	0.5%
OCEANIA	385,000	0.0%
WORLD	1,126,325,000	100%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2007

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### Languages

- Arabic – Spoken in the Middle East and Northern Africa
- Malay – Indonesia
- Pashto – Afghanistan
- Urdu/Punjabi – Pakistan
- All Muslims do not speak the same language.

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### Prohibitions

- Pork – food laws
- Idols/statues
- Liquor
- Sex before marriage
- Gambling
- Not all Muslims follow the prohibitions
- Interest/Bank

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### 5 pillars of Islam

- Bear witness to God
- Pray five times a day
- Charity – percentage of your earnings
- Fasting during the month of Ramadan
- Pilgrimage - Hajj

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**Interviewing**

- Small talk is essential – family/culture
- Will be offered food and drinks
- Female talk to female/male to male

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**Interviewing cont...**

- General fear of police and government
- Conservative behavior – concerned about image/honor
- Great respect for elders and experience

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**Muslim/Arab Homes**

- Prayer rugs – best not to step on them
- Usually guests are requested to take their shoes off.

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**Muslim/Arab Homes**

- Women may gather in a separate room
- Physical contact.
- Can't have any religious documents on the floor

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**Misconceptions**

- Turbans/Sikhs
- Dots and scars on head
- Beating the system

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**Women**

- Men should only shake a women's hand if she offers it .
- Women will usually prefer that you talk to their husbands.
- Have a female officer available.

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### Muslim Perceptions about Americans

- Americans are more well off
- Americans have liberal family/moral values.
- American women have more freedom.
- The American government is hypocritical
- Americans are less religious than Muslims.

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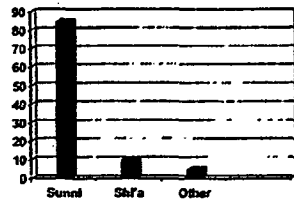
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### Divisions of Islam



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### Divisions in Islam

- Sunni - usually more strict and conservative. Follow Sharia law. Iraq is a Sunni government, however the majority are not Sunni. Wahhabi are in Saudi Arabia
- Shi'a - Majority in Iran and Yemen.
- Many more smaller sects. Sufi - mystic Islam.

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### Summary

- Definitions of Muslim terms
- Arabic is not the only language spoken by Muslims
- Prohibitions/Pillars of Islam – not always followed
- Interviewing Muslims/Arabs
- Entering a Muslim/Arab home
- Perceptions



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