

Chapter 1 : NY Daily News - We are currently unavailable in your region

Ridge, Brooklyn, has the largest Arab-American community in New York City, and Yemenis are part of the mix. Yemenis live and own stores all around the city, mainly in devel-

February 18, 2015: Khaldoon, a year-old government prison security guard, had been looking down at his phone, waiting for his salary. Mamoon went inside their family home to get some cash to lend his brother. When Mamoon returned, Khaldoon was lying on the curb, bleeding from the back of his head. It was an image that the local branch of the Islamic State, who claimed responsibility for the attack, would spread on their own media channels, later published by Yemeni news outlets. Khaldoon Gahleeb holds his son. Mohamed Gahleeb Mamoon rushed Khaldoon to the hospital, but it was too late: The doctors declared his younger brother dead. Mohamed Gahleeb applied for Khaldoon to join him in Yemen, but he chose Khaldoon because his middle son was the one most in need of work. He knew how difficult and long of a process it could be to bring even one family member to the United States. Sitting in the kitchen of his basement apartment deep in Brooklyn, Mohamed showed a picture on his phone of Khaldoon holding his toddler son. The elder Gahleeb choked on tears as he kissed the screen and murmured: It hurts me too much. After Mohamed Gahleeb submitted a DNA test, conducted two immigration interviews, and waited for eight years, President Donald Trump declared his travel ban in January. It barred citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries, including Yemen. The Supreme Court allowed a third version of the ban to go into effect in December, stopping all Yemeni immigrant visas. The travel ban has left families like the Gahleeb trapped in a war that has killed thousands and created a humanitarian crisis starving millions. Conflict erupted between the Iranian-backed Houthi rebels and the Yemeni government, supported by a Saudi-led and U.S. Extremist groups filled the ensuing power vacuum. Al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, active in Yemen since 2002, strengthened, while ISIS, currently waning in Iraq and Syria, seized the chance to move into the region and recruit in Yemen. Even Yemenis who might qualify to be resettled as refugees face stiff odds. When that expired in October, he put into place a day review for 11 countries deemed high risk, including Yemen. Although that leaves open the possibility of refugee admissions, a Reuters investigation in December reported that even when the ban was lifted, refugee admissions plummeted. According to United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, only 16 Yemenis were resettled as refugees in fiscal year 2015, 26 in 2014, 21 in 2013, and none yet in this fiscal year. Mohamed Gahleeb at home in Brooklyn. Mallory Moench Mohamed Gahleeb said Yemenis have lived under terrorism for nearly a decade. Those are people who think themselves that they are Muslims. Elisabeth Kendall, a senior research fellow at Oxford University who monitors extremists in Yemen, said assassinations flagged as terrorist attacks could actually be motivated by political rivalry or criminal activity. When the war was about to break out in late 2014, Khaldoon joined government forces fighting against the rebel Houthis and former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh. The Gahleeb family are also staunch supporters of South Yemen, which was an independent country until unification in 1990. Mohamed Gahleeb, who welcomes U.S. Fighting in the city is still ongoing. In this chaos, extremist groups have thrived. Drone strikes since have killed at least 1,000 militants and more than 10,000 civilians in Yemen, watchdog groups estimate. Yemenis gather at the scene of an explosion near a security post in the southern port city of Aden on November 14, 2015. A widely criticized raid a week after he took office ended in the deaths of one Navy SEAL and at least 16 Yemeni civilians. Drone strikes tripled from 10 to 30 in January 2015, U.S. There is evidence that strikes may have been effective in weakening these groups, according to Kendall, who monitors extremist social media and news reports. According to her research, AQAP has shifted its target from the Houthis to the UAE-backed military, because of the threat it posed to the extremist group. ISIS moved from civilian suicide bombings to battling Houthis "except for the spike of violence in November that killed Khaldoon. Mohamed Gahleeb said he now fears for the safety of his five children still in Yemen. I am afraid for the whole family. We depend on the support of readers like you to help keep our nonprofit newsroom strong and independent.

Chapter 2 : Yemeni Americans - Wikipedia

Based on fieldwork among Yemeni emigrants in New York City, this study traces an expanding frame of social interaction and relationships and examines the folklore of ethnicity, including narratives.

History[edit] Although it is unknown when Yemenis first arrived, it is believed that Yemenis were immigrating to the U. Some Yemenis gained U. Yemenis immigrants settled in existing Lebanese communities in cities like New York. They were outcast as Muslims, as the Lebanese communities were predominantly Christian, as were Syrian and Palestinian communities. After becoming situated, many Yemenis traveled westward for better job opportunities. However, these companies are not characteristic of Yemeni culture, and it is likely that they have been owners of cafes under the influence of Lebanese and Palestinian communities longer. Immigration then increased afterward. In , many Yemenis immigrated to the United States from Vietnam , where many Yemenis had worked in warehouses, shops, and on the docks. Many Yemeni immigrants had held the status of being illiterate. Because of this, they could bypass regulations and were admitted. When in the quota system for immigration was eliminated, Yemenis could more easily gain visas to reside in and gain employment in the United States. This prompted a great increase in the numbers of Yemeni immigrants. Another feature of Yemeni immigrants in the U. About 15, Yemeni Americans live in Michigan. A significant population of Yemeni Americans live in the southside of Dearborn Salina area. Sally Howell, author of Howell, "Competing for Muslims: New Strategies for Urban Renewal in Detroit", wrote that Yemeni people had a presence in the Metro Detroit area since the late s and "they have participated more actively in transnational practices than have other Arab Americans". They speak many different dialects of Arabic, including: Most of them are Muslim. One year later, a newspaper was established as the Yemeni American nNews. The American Association of Yemeni Scientists and Professionals promotes Yemenis in technical fields and provides a college scholarship program.

Based on fieldwork among Yemeni emigrants in New York City, this study traces an expanding frame of social interaction and relationships and examines the folklore of ethnicity, including narratives, jokes, poetry, music, dance, foodways, and religious custom.

The inspiration for the Yemeni bodega strike came from the JFK protests. Riyadh Alhirdi is trying not to cry. Alhirdi, who is year-old and was born in Yemen, has been dealing with opaque immigration procedures regarding his family for over four years. They have been stuck in Egypt since because the American Consulate in war-torn Yemen is closed. The fact that Alhirdi is even sitting in a Yemeni community center and asking for help and also freely telling his story to a journalist may not seem, on the surface, significant. But for the Yemeni community, nothing about this scenario would have seemed plausible less than two years ago. Yemen was one of them. Kennedy International Airport to protest the executive order. One of them was Zaid Nagi, a Yemeni business owner. To say that we are part of America. They solicited the help of other community activists. The idea of a Yemeni bodega strike was born. And they had four days to put it together. There was skepticism, Hassan acknowledged, when the call was first put out to the community. And when people saw that others were going to [close their stores], it spread like fire. Thousands gathered, waved U. Hundreds of thousands engaged online from all over the globe. To understand this, one needs to know that within the Muslim and Arab immigrant communities, Yemenis are, by and large, considered a quiet citizenry. According to Hassan, who was one of the organizers of the bodega strike, Yemenis seldom engage civically and rarely are active politically on a national scale. To a degree, this Yemeni mindset was ingrained in her, too. You hide under the radar. There always will be those who condemn, those who oppose change, those who cling to a system that benefits few. And maybe there are those who believe that holding a microphone is the victory, in and of itself. But in the year and a half since the unexpected juggernaut of the bodega strike, how much, really, have activists achieved? The irrefutable answer is a lot. Civilians wanting to leave the war-torn nation now must find their way to a U. Prior to , many of the Yemenis arriving to the U. Before the ban, the war forced the educated immigrants from larger cities to seek asylum. That wave of immigrants has been more involved and apt to align themselves with the second-generation, U. An estimated 6, Yemeni immigrants and their allies attended the Yemeni bodega strike, on Feb. Michael Nigro This change, of course, has added a new and different dynamic to the community and, some have surmised, was one of the reasons the bodega strike was unlike anything the Yemeni community expected or experienced prior. This included organizing more rallies, town halls, learning to engage with politics and politicians, and, perhaps most importantly, creating educational programs. We come from a place where nothing works. She is also Yemeni. We saw the same oppression happening in Yemen was starting to happen here with Trump. This our dream, so we have to fight for it. We must educate our community. Education, she feels, is the key ingredient for her community to begin changing all the interconnected issues. The men work hour days. But they are split into two groups, the supporters and those who simply will not. I am interested in educating women so they can change their future. Debbie Almontaser, a well-known Yemeni activist and integral cog in organizing the bodega strike, says during a phone interview. Debbie Almontaser, holding the clipboard, at the New York Yemeni bodega strike. Were they a victim of hate crimes, and did they report it? How was business going? That they are not second-class citizens. Abeer Alharazi, the director of outreach and merchant services for the Yemeni American Merchants Association. Michael Nigro The all-volunteer, seven-member boardâ€™including Dr. We cannot find just one issue. Fighting to reunite families seeking entry into the U. But the Yemeni community is in triage mode. There are so many heartbreaking stories, and so many people are crying mercy, just saying give us a break. After his family was prevented from coming here to be with him, Salem committed suicide. That the value of the Yemeni riyal the currency of Yemen has plunged and the increase in prices of the basic necessities has increased has had a ripple effect of implications throughout Yemeni communities. On the day we met in the Bronx, he revealed that his mother was refused entry into the U. How are you going to help the community? It is where I met Alhirdi, who had arrived looking for help getting asylum for his wife and five

children. Not the processing centers. Not the American consulate in Egypt. Where we are tracking a case, going through all the necessary stages, but then it just falls into a black hole, and no one knows what to do. He tells me that he still has a strong belief in the American justice system but gets quiet when asked about the travel ban being upheld by the Supreme Court last June. He tells me that his children have not been able to attend school for the past three years as they wait for asylum. In Egypt, they are considered visitors and are not eligible to do so. Alharazi meets him at the front desk, leaving me and Alhirdi alone at the back of the office. Alhirdi buttons the top button of his shirt and then stands up from the table, positioning himself in a proud stance between two flags hanging from the ceiling. Activism Immigration Yemen dan One so rarely hears about Yemeni-Americans; glad to hear they are resisting against Trump and his cronies, both women and men active in the struggle. Daily movement news and resources. Popular Resistance provides a daily stream of resistance news from across the United States and around the world. We also organize campaigns and participate in coalitions on a broad range of issues. We do not use advertising or underwriting to support our work. Instead, we rely on you. Please consider making a tax deductible donation if you find our website of value.

Chapter 4 : yemenis in new york city | Download eBook pdf, epub, tuebl, mobi

Yemenis immigrants settled in existing Lebanese communities in cities like New York. They were outcast as Muslims, as the Lebanese communities were predominantly Christian, as were Syrian and Palestinian communities.

Countless lives lie in the balance of this decision. The ban denies U. Who we are Yemeni-Americans have been part of the American fabric for many generations. For more than a century, they have worked on railroads and in the steel and the automobile industry stretching from Buffalo and Lackawanna, New York, to Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan. Today they run small and midsize successful businesses from New York City in the east to Oakland, San Francisco, and Bakersfield, California, in the west. Yemeni-Americans have also historically maintained close ties with both the U. A waiver would exempt from the ban the people to whom it is granted. To qualify for it, they would have to show that they would experience undue hardship if they were denied a visa, that their entry into the U. The proclamation lists several examples of situations in which a waiver would be appropriate and assumes that consular officers will examine whether people are eligible for the waiver on a case-by-case basis. The Yemenis who have been denied visas are overwhelmingly immediate relatives of U. And due to the war in Yemen, most if not all of them experience hardship when denied reunification with their U. Following the start of the war in Yemen, the U. As a result, these Yemeni relatives of Americans must travel to another country, usually Djibouti, to complete processing of their visa petitions. So not only are they stuck in limbo, they are often waiting for the bad news in third countries, far from their homes. Thus, although the proclamation states that waivers are to be issued on a case-by-case basis and though it prohibits consular and U. Customs and Border Protection officers from issuing waivers to groups or categories of applicants, the U. It has issued en masse visa denials “ to children, mothers, fathers, spouses, and other relatives of U. My own organization heard of more than a hundred visa denials. Some Yemenis had tales of bringing their children who needed immediate medical attention to the consular interviews; others came with a detailed waiver petition to demonstrate their qualifications for a waiver. Most, however, were not even given a chance to seek a waiver, as their interviews had taken place months prior to the decision. Nobody received a waiver. In one case, a three-year-old child had to be separated from his parents, who stayed behind in Djibouti while he was sent to the U. His mother was denied a visa. In another case, a father had to choose between keeping his job in the U. And many families had to decide to return to war-torn Yemen after receiving rejections. Many individuals were forced to leave their jobs or studies in the U. They were expecting to be in Djibouti for a few weeks and ended up being stranded for months, or in some cases a year. Life in Djibouti is expensive. In Djibouti, everyone I met with wanted to know: If the Court strikes down the Muslim ban in its entirety, is the Court going to force the government to reopen the hundreds of cases that were denied because of the executive orders and presidential proclamation? Will they need to reapply and again wait an indefinite amount of time to reunite with their families? And if the Court upholds the ban, will they ever be able to reunite with their families? Many of those I met with in Djibouti had high hopes that the Supreme Court justices will uphold the values of the U. Constitution, as lower courts across the nation have in these Muslim ban cases. They strongly believe that, surely, although the president may have the power to make policies, he certainly does not have the power to discriminate. Regardless of what the justices ultimately decide, the fight for justice and equality will be a long one “ one in which Yemeni-Americans must be fully engaged along with our fellow Americans.

Chapter 5 : Holdings: Yemenis in New York City :

The fighting has displaced about a million Yemenis. Tyler Hicks/The New York Times. Airstrikes have destroyed homes in the Old City of Sana. Tyler Hicks/The New York Times.

Chapter 6 : NPR Choice page

DOWNLOAD PDF YEMENIS IN NEW YORK CITY

Yemenis in New York, in the Shadow of a Travel Ban. Liz Sanders photographed young arrivals from Yemen, navigating a new country, a culture gap and a lot of survivor guilt.

Chapter 7 : Yemenis in New York City: The Folklore of Ethnicity - Shalom Staub - Google Books

Yemeni-Americans living in New York did not have a history of political activism “ before Trump, that is. Law@TheMargins reports that Yemenis in New York City were galvanized get involved in politics thanks to the administration's travel ban and anti-immigrant policies.

Chapter 8 : Trump’s Ban As Experienced by Yemeni-Americans (The Torch) - National Immigration Law Center

He gave the feds a June 12 deadline to "provide a valid printed visa" to the Yemenis stranded in Djibouti, who have family waiting for them in the states, mostly in New York City.

Chapter 9 : Yemenis in New York City : the folklore of ethnicity (Book,) [blog.quintoapp.com]

The High Cost of the Travel Ban: Yemenis pay Thousands to Reunite Families. As they await a decision from the Supreme Court on the travel ban, Yemenis in New York have been drowning in costs to support their families stranded because of Trump's executive order.