

Dear Friends & Supporters of Ideas Beyond Borders,

I'd like to first and foremost say thank you for supporting the Ideas Beyond Borders mission and actively wanting to know more about us. Our mission would be impossible without you.

I started this organization because I believe that ideas can shape and change the world.

Seventeen years ago, I was 10-years-old, growing up in Baghdad under the regime of Saddam Hussein. I remember watching the buildings collapse on September 11th, having no idea that the smoke and debris would reach across the oceans and transform my life, too.

My younger self could never have imagined that one day I would become a refugee and end up in the same country where those buildings came crashing down -- essentially because that horrific attack happened. 9/11 redefined America, but it utterly destroyed the lives of many. I lost my own brother to the same terrorists that attacked the States, survived being kidnapped, and watched as my world and everything I knew disintegrated around me - but out of all that horror came hope.

I fled Iraq, and after many countries and adventures wound up living in the same city as the 9/11 Memorial. I've gone through the looking glass, and have come out the other side.

My odyssey was my inspiration to found Ideas Beyond Borders - a nonprofit organization with the mission of preventing extremism before it takes root. I feel a personal responsibility to stop all of this suffering and destruction in its tracks.

So far I have been blessed with success. Our programs inspire thousands across the globe, our Global Conversations discussion forum has reached over 2.4 million in 120+ countries, and our translation program has made 10+ books and over 1,000+ articles available to millions who otherwise would never have access.

While the same forces that plotted 9/11 are busy sowing derision, hate, and extremist values that separate, Ideas Beyond Borders is working to heal the divide and empower men and women that are seeking answers but don't have access to the wealth of ideas and diversity in thought and expression that we in the US enjoy. We've launched an online platform to make controversial, banned, or academic books accessible to Arabic speakers across the globe. We've redone our website, grown our team, and exceeded our translation goals for last year. Our progress is something to celebrate - but our work is only just getting started.

We want to break through the barrier even further in 2019. We're launching an online platform to distribute our content, we're working on revolutionary counter-extremism and empowerment workshops, and we're fighting violence and hate with knowledge and ideas. Thank you for your support. Together we can make the inaccessible, accessible for millions in 2019.



Thank you,

Faisal Saeed Al Mutar

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