

From: Hasib, Texas, USA

Hi Maartje from the U.S! -)

I hope you're doing well.. I've been watching the show couscous and cola and seem to be amazed.

The show is amazing in it's capturing of reality and the problems faced by not only immigrant youth, but youth in general.

I loved the amazing idea and the show itself.

I wanted to email you to express my gratitude and thanks.

It was an absolutely amazing idea, and I think of John Longley's work (he made "Iraq in Fragments") in terms of it's cinematography and capture of the 'story.' Simply amazing. I hope you go far in your work. I wrote you this email to show you that recognition should compel and drive one to seek something better, always seeking something better -). That is what I was taught growing up, and that is what I wanted to share with somebody who's worked so hard.

Coming from a muslim immigrant background that grew up in the U.S., everything the people discussed on the show, all the problems they faced, i went through them -). Nearly EVERY episode i find myself wanting to "chip-in" on the debate and share my story, and I found that this email to you is my way of collecting all that and sharing it.

If you ever get a chance to see those kids again, tell them (in danish or english) that there is a dude named Hasib Noor, originally from Afghanistan, lived in Germany, New York, California, and now Austin-Texas, who knows where they are coming from, they're not alone -), and especially Omar if i could talk to him i'd talk to him for hours, but if I could say ONE thing.. it'd have to be "As-salaamu 'alaikum wa rahmatAllahi wa barakaatuhu," which is the Muslim greeting to one another, or in english "May God's Peace, Mercy, and Blessings be upon you." -)

Take care..

and if i'm ever in Holland, or they're in TX or wherever. make sure to say whats up -)

From: Faiz in Kenya

i come from the coast of kenya where muslims dominate.the programme has impressed me beyond..and i have more or less the same views or harsher still than the ones they

presented. i like america for the good life but hate it at the same time for its people and ideas especially concerning islam and terrorism. so i have really liked the programme and will like even much more if you could involve mombasa, which is my home town, in the programme.

From: Shahid in Pakistan

I saw a talk (with young boys of ages around 15-20 from different ethnical backgrounds), on the issue of Muslim gays a sensitive issue which is being promoted as 'a controversial' issue amongst the Muslims. Though I could not benefit from the full talk, the presentation of the topic appeared to be somewhat following (if not promoting) an alien agenda --- by presenting an issue as if it is not at all controversial, and rather encouraging youngsters to open their minds and think about it.

from: Mike, New London, USA

Ran into references for, "Couscous and Cola", online...
(Several citations including at Al Jazeera's English news site).

My wife and I are both involved in multi-cultural issues and community activism/ education.
(She is a trainer for the Minority-Health-Coalition in Manchester NH, I am facilitator and staff advisor to student groups here at Colby-Sawyer College and some other, small, New England Colleges).

Am thinking that there are many common themes for ANY communities having unique identity that they would preserve while at same time needing to live amongst a dominant culture that demands assimilation and integration.
(True whether minority community is 1st generation or otherwise).

Here we have many recent arrivals from Middle-east and Africa as well as "First-Nations" people and communities that are reclaiming unique heritage that way-PRE-DATES the, locally-dominant, white culture!

Noticed on your web-site, "Virtual Fatherlands", the title reminded me of a film called "Homeland: Four Portraits".
Recently met with Chief Dana of the Maine Penobscot tribe who is

featured in this film which discusses the importance of "Sovereignty" in many of the struggles we are now engaged in.

From: Linda, Stanford, USA

Dear Maartje,

Could we get a DVD you can send it directly to me:

Stanford University Libraries
Green Library, Acquisitions Dept.
Stanford, CA 94305-6004
USA

If there is a charge, please let me know the amount so that I can get permission to order it from our library.

Thanks very much!
Linda

From Adam, USA

I just wanted to thank you for broadcasting this show (Couscous & Cola).

It is great to see the opinions of the future generation toward the US.

I can't think of another show that could capture such a diverse group of students, all living in a country very different from their own. On the internet I saw that the same company who made this show has done a second season. I hope Al-Jazeera will broadcast that one too. I used to live in Doha and I wish Al-Jazeera the best of luck. I also hope you can get into the US news market so that people can see another opinion as well as learn about the rest of the world. Keep up the good work, and again, thank you. –Adam

From Fahad, Pakistan

Subject: I really like the programme.

The programme that Aljazeera is showing every week as Couscousand Cola about the group teenage immigrants, their life and the challenges they face about their immigration and their

dream to go to America and the programme also shows their life and the debate which is also shown. It's really a great effort by Aljazeera that they are always after the real picture and the real story for anything. The programme couscous and cola has interested me in many ways by which I have understood part of lives of the people who immigrated to such countries and how they live such as these young teenagers, I am still watching the programme with alot of interest and best of luck to Aljazeera.

from: Mo, Spain, Europe

very good programme!!!!!!!!!!!! Aljazeera always 10/10. tank you for your news and your programme.