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## Notes

1. Anwar bin Ibrahim (born 1947) is a Malaysian statesman and politician, the 10th Prime Minister of Malaysia since 2022.
2. Mahathir bin Mohamad – statesman and politician of Malaysia, Prime Minister of the country in 1981–2003 and 2018–2020.

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## VLADIMIR KIRICHENKO. SHIA COMMUNITIES IN THE UK

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*Abstract.* The article examines the situation of Shia Muslim communities in the UK. Their members are of different ethnic origin and are adherents of different branches of modern Shia Islam. Over time, a large number of Shia Muslim centers have been founded in the UK.

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Shia Muslims living in the UK have diverse backgrounds, including those originating from South Asia, East Africa, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan [1]. Since the early 1970s, Brent<sup>1</sup> has been the London borough where Shi'ites from Iraq and the Gulf States have been settling in large numbers. Immigrants tended to choose Brent due to the rise in housing and rental prices in Central London [2, p. 291]. There are many Shiite organizations located in this part of the capital city of the United Kingdom.

One of the most prominent Shia organizations in the UK is the Khoei Foundation<sup>2</sup>, founded in 1989. The main objective of the foundation is education and social welfare of Muslim communities [3]. The Imam Khoei Islamic Centre, one of the foundation's educational institutions, is located in Brent. We should also mention that such centers always have a room for prayers.

Another notable Shia organization is Dar al-Islam, a community center acting as the London base for the Da'wa Party, the main Iraqi Shia Islamist party that led the government between 2005 and 2018. Founded in 1991, the center hosts religious events in accordance with the Shia Islamic calendar. One of the objectives of the institution is to strengthen the ties of British Shia Muslims from Iraq with their homeland. The center attracts mainly middle-class and upper-class Iraqis with secular education that have attained a certain social and economic status. The organization acts as an intermediary between the Da'wa Party in Iraq and the Iraqi diaspora in London. For example, in 1992, the party's political programme was developed by its leaders in London. After the fall of Saddam Hussein's regime in 2003, many members of Dar al-Islam returned to Iraq; some of them even held key political, economic and cultural positions. Two Iraqi Prime Ministers after 2003 – Ibrahim al-Jaafari (b. 1947) and Haider al-Abadi (b. 1952) – have ties with the center [2, p. 296].

Even though precise information on the religious affiliation of Shia Muslims in the UK is unavailable since the UK census does not include question on religious denominations, Iraqi and Iranian Shia Muslim organizations are predominant in London.