Professor Rafeizadeh Interview

*Q. Which groups (in the U.S.) do you see as most “vulnerable” to ISIS influence?*

A. “People who have been insulted and are emotional. Or people who have been deprived from the economy. The second generation immigrants that were born Americans but raised with their parent’s foreign culture are being pushed aside by small acts of other people, and that hurts them a lot.For foreigners who come in, they know they are foreigners they have to adapt. But for them they were born here.”

*Q. Do you have any broad advice for us?*

A. “I think the idea of identifying that it is the humiliation and depravation as the causes. It becomes a lot more directed at how could we resolve humiliation; we cannot really eliminate prejudices as a whole. Reach out to social groups that celebrate differences, bring them together and heal their wounds of humiliation. For people who have been hurt by the economy there are many organizations providing food and help, but there are not that many movements for the social aspect.”

Q*. Any resources you think we should tap?*

A. “Cultural organizations at BU, bring them together. Empower them and work together with them.”