

ISLAMIC INSTITUTE DIRECTOR OFFERS BLESSING AT WHITE HOUSE IFTAR

WASHINGTON, OCTOBER 22 -- Prayer said by Imam Eid, at iftaar dinner at the White House:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Praise be to God, and peace and blessings on Prophet Mohammed. Peace be upon him.

Praise be to God who created us from Adam and Eve, who established us on Earth with different nations and languages; who emphasized in His sacred books that nations should strive in the struggle to establish ways and means to know one another and live peacefully together.

Almighty God, we are grateful to President George W. Bush as he gathered us, American Muslims, and leaders, during the blessed month of Ramadan, to be his guests and the guests of this great nation, to break the fast together.

Oh, our Creator, last month we commemorated the fifth anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks on our nation. Today we are gathered to offer homage to those who died, and their families. We pray for your blessings as we honor those firefighters and police officers who helped ease the suffering of the survivors of that heinous crime. They are the heroes who will we always remember for their bravery.

We also remember those brave individuals who lost their lives in an effort to rescue the innocents. These heroes are the martyrs, not those who committed the murders.

Almighty God, help us all work together to stop the terror of violence, to end the suffering and misery of innocent people, and to spread the seeds of hope and peace on Earth.

May God protect this great nation from the evil acts of terrorists, and inspire its leadership to continue supporting freedom and justice for all. May God's choicest blessings and rewards dawn upon those who are present in this assembly, and upon all people of goodwill. Amen.

=====

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

GR/ 2006

Note: *A Bangla translation of this article is also available from the American Center. If you are interested in the translation, please call the American Center Press Section (Tel: 8837150-4, Fax: 9885688; e-mail: DhakaPA@state.gov; Website: [http:// dhaka.usembassy.gov](http://dhaka.usembassy.gov))*