

In the Name of God, the Beneficent, the Merciful, Peace and Blessings on our Beloved Prophet, His Family and Companions.

ISCA Alert

For Immediate Release

State Department Renews Commitment to Honor Ramadan Secretary Powell Hosts Annual Iftar Dinner

(Washington, DC 12/3/01) – In a gesture of peace and understanding to the American Muslim community, hundreds of Muslim guests were invited to break their fast at the State Department with Secretary of State Colin Powell. The guests included Imams of mosques, activists, representatives of national Muslim organizations, and Muslim members of the armed forces. Unable to personally attend, the Chairman of the Islamic Supreme Council of America, Shaykh Mohammed Hisham Kabbani was represented by Director of Inter-Religious Affairs Ken Bromund.

Proclaiming America as a 'nation of nations', Mr. Powell addressed the members of the American Muslim community in the spirit of affirming the contributions Muslims have made to our country. Mr. Powell acknowledged several Muslim members of the U.S. armed forces who had distinguished themselves in the service of their country in the aftermath of the September 11 tragedy.

Mr. Powell's received much applause for his declaration that the United States will not abandon Afghanistan after the end of the current conflict, but would help rebuild and ensure that a balanced government is established, one which upholds women's participation. Sympathizing with the problem of profiling in the Muslim American community, Mr. Powell noted, 'I am a minority' – and related a story of how difficult that has been for him.

The event began as the call to prayer was raised. Graciously waiting while the assembled Muslims broke their fast before making his address, the Secretary of State invited Dr. Hendi to lead the gathered guests in a prayer for peace before dinner.

ISCA chairman Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani noted that this event is a sign of the Administration's good faith towards Muslims in America. He said, "This iftar is a gesture of goodwill to Muslims. We must respond with cooperation in seeking out the perpetrators of terror who may be hiding within our ranks."

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ISCA is comprised of over 150 scholarly advisors from around the world.