

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

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## Secretary Clinton: U.S. Building Global Alliances and Partnerships

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington — Continuing U.S. global leadership in the 21st century will help build alliances and partnerships to solve shared challenges and promote global advances in areas such as development, nuclear nonproliferation and human rights, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says.

Speaking September 8 at the Council on Foreign Relations in Washington, Clinton said that although there is a need for a new global architecture to replace the bipolar approach to the world that characterized the Cold War years, the world continues to look to the United States for leadership.

“When old adversaries need an honest broker or fundamental freedoms need a champion, people turn to us. When the earth shakes or rivers overflow their banks, when pandemics rage or simmering tensions burst into violence, the world looks to us,” she said.

“The United States can, must and will lead in this new century. Indeed, the complexities and connections of today’s world have yielded a new American moment, a moment when our global leadership is essential, even if we must often lead in new ways,” she said.

The United States seeks to build a new global architecture that consists of “a network of alliances and partnerships, regional organizations and global institutions,” that Clinton said will be “durable and dynamic enough to help us meet today’s challenges and adapt to threats that we cannot even conceive of, just as our parents never dreamt of melting glaciers or dirty bombs.”

While only people and nations can solve problems, an architecture of alliances and other partnerships “can make it easier to act effectively by supporting the coalition forging and compromise building that is the daily fare of diplomacy,” Clinton said, as well as help “identify common interests and convert them to common action” and delineate “clear obligations and expectations” for all.

The United States “has the reach and resolve” to mobilize the world to cooperate to solve shared problems and build shared progress, she said, and this model of American leadership “offers the best hope in a dangerous world.”

Under President Obama, global economic development is seen as “a strategic, economic and moral imperative,” on a par with U.S. interests in diplomacy and defense, and it

reflects the need for shared responsibility among nations in the 21st century, she said.

“Helping other nations develop that capacity to solve their own problems and participate in solving other shared problems has long been a hallmark of American leadership,” she said, and with the world growing ever more interconnected, U.S. security and prosperity is becoming more dependent on “the ability of others to take responsibility for defusing threats and meeting challenges in their own countries and regions.”

The new strategy seeks to help developing countries “obtain the tools and support they need to solve their own problems; to help people lift themselves, their families and their societies out of poverty, away from extremism and towards sustainable progress,” she said.

The secretary acknowledged areas where the Obama administration and some of its global partners do not agree, such as the expansion of democracy and human rights, which she said should be “cemented into the foundations” of global institutions.

“There’s no point in trying to build institutions for the 21st century that don’t act to counter repression and resist pressure on human rights, [which] extend fundamental freedoms over time to places where they have too long been denied,” she said. Investing to create opportunities for women is also important not only to expand their rights but also to help drive broader social and economic progress, Clinton said.

It is important to deepen U.S. relationships with emerging world powers and share the burden of solving common challenges, and “our goal is to establish productive relationships that survive the times when we do not agree, and that enable us to continue to work together,” Clinton said.

Clinton pointed to the international community’s response to Iran’s nuclear activities as an “example of American leadership in action,” showing how the Obama administration’s openness to direct engagement with Iran and its willingness to lead by example by adhering to its own obligations under the global nonproliferation regime have helped build support for ensuring that Iran does not obtain a nuclear weapon.

“Through classic shoe-leather diplomacy, we’ve built a broad consensus that will welcome Iran back into the community of nations if it meets its obligations, and will likewise hold Iran accountable if it continues its defiance,” she said. As a result of this approach, the U.N. Security Council passed its strongest and most comprehensive range of sanctions against Iran, with other nations implementing their own additional measures, including

Australia, Canada, Norway and Japan.

"We know that Iran is under tremendous pressure. Early returns from implementation of the sanctions are that they're feeling the economic effects. We would hope that that would lead them to reconsider their positions," she said.

Similarly, with respect to North Korea's nuclear activities, "we are continuing to send a very clear message ... about what we expect," as well as what diplomatic engagement could offer "if they are willing to return and discuss seriously denuclearization that is irreversible," Clinton said.

### **New Generation of Muslim Youth Praised at State Department Iftar**

*Secretary Clinton commends young American Muslim leaders for diplomacy*

By M. Scott Bortot  
Staff Writer

Washington — Diplomats, entrepreneurs and future leaders joined Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton at the U.S. State Department's annual iftar dinner in Washington on September 7.

Secretary Clinton praised 70 young American Muslim leaders who attended the iftar, as well as an event earlier in the evening, called Generation Change. Generation Change gave the young leaders an opportunity to network and to discuss issues important to their communities.

"Our embassies now are sponsoring more events like Generation Change in order to listen to young people, and to help connect young people across the globe, to connect them with other change-makers," Clinton said.

The young Muslim leaders who attended the iftar are making a difference at home and abroad. Among their achievements is a program to keep Pakistani girls from dropping out of secondary school, a soccer league created for Afghan girls, and an effort to bring wounded Iraqi children to America for medical treatment.

Other young leaders use movies and blogs, music and novels, and comedy and art to explore what it means to be an American Muslim. Such efforts have sparked discussions about identity and belonging.

"This kind of engagement, in my view, is really a form of diplomacy and so all of you are unofficial ambassadors on behalf of our country, our values and our communities as well as yours," Clinton said.

In the spirit of respect for Islam, Clinton noted broad

American condemnation of plans by a church in Florida to burn a Quran on September 11.

"I am heartened by the clear, unequivocal condemnation of this disrespectful and disgraceful act that has come from American religious leaders of all faiths, from Evangelical Christians to Jewish rabbis, as well as secular U.S. leaders and opinion-makers," she said, adding that religious tolerance is rooted early in America's history. "Many of you know that in 1790, George Washington wrote to a synagogue in Newport, Rhode Island, that this country will give to bigotry no sanction, to persecution, no assistance."

Regarding the recent resumption of Middle East peace talks, Clinton said progress must always be a possibility, in spite of difficulty.

"In the weeks and the months ahead, President Obama and I will do everything we can to help advance the cause of a comprehensive peace, not only in the Middle East, but across the world and inside the hearts and minds of our fellow Americans," Clinton said.

Clinton discussed an initiative launched in April called Partners for a New Beginning, chaired by former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Partners for a New Beginning will advance opportunities in Muslim communities around the world in several key areas: entrepreneurship, science and technology, education and exchanges.

Rashad Hussein, the U.S. envoy to the Organization of the Islamic Conference, and Precious Muhammad, a highly regarded historian, were singled out for praise by Clinton. Muhammad is writing a chronicle of Islam in America for the State Department.

"And it is indeed a rich history that extends back hundreds of years," Clinton said.

Clinton said that an iftar can be a time of reflection on how to build a better future.

"I hope that we, at these tables, and at similar tables everywhere, where people are meeting in the spirit of Ramadan to break fast, we will reflect on how each can demonstrate that a different future is possible, a future built on the universal human values of mutual respect and inclusion."

### **U.S. Leaders Condemn Intolerance: America Not Built on Hate**

*Americans of all faiths speak out against anti-Muslim acts*

Washington — Senior U.S. officials and dozens of prominent religious leaders from multiple faiths have

condemned intolerance of Islam and a planned act of desecration of the Quran by a small Florida church as not being part of the broad American tradition that respects and protects all religious beliefs and faiths.

"Our commitment to religious tolerance goes back to the very beginning of our nation," Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said before the start of the State Department's annual iftar September 7 in Washington. Joining Clinton at the iftar were 75 young Muslim Americans from across the United States, who celebrated the influence of Islam on American life and culture.

Clinton denounced plans by the church to burn the Muslim holy book, telling the Council on Foreign Relations September 8 that "it's regrettable that a pastor in Gainesville, Florida, with a church of no more than 50 people can make this outrageous and distressful, disgraceful plan and get ... the world's attention."

"It doesn't in any way represent America or Americans or American government or American religious or political leadership," Clinton told the council in Washington.

Clinton added that she was heartened by responses of condemnation that have come from American religious leaders of all faiths, from Christian ministers to Jewish rabbis.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick, the Roman Catholic archbishop emeritus of Washington, told reporters at an interfaith meeting September 7 that the action of a single church "is not America. America was not built on hate." McCarrick and nearly three dozen clergy and religious leaders, including a representative of the Islamic Society of North America, held a news conference at the National Press Club to express concern over a trend in recent months of anti-Muslim hostility.

"We are appalled by such disrespect for a sacred text that for centuries has shaped many of the great cultures of our world," the religious leaders said in a prepared statement.

Some of the religious leaders also met with U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder at the Justice Department for nearly an hour to discuss recent attacks on Muslims and mosques around the United States and called for aggressive prosecution. The Federal Bureau of Investigation has begun investigations into the recent attacks. Violent acts of religious hatred are federal crimes in the United States, and bring swift action from the FBI and the Justice Department.

"To those who would exercise derision, bigotry, open rejection of our fellow Americans of a different faith, I say, shame on you," the Reverend Richard Cizik, president of the New Evangelical Partnership for the

Common Good, said at the press club press conference.

"As an evangelical, I say to those who do this, 'You bring dishonor to those who love Jesus Christ,'" he added.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates told his staff September 8 that he fully supports U.S. military leaders who have also condemned the planned desecration as risky and ill-advised. Army General David Petraeus, who commands U.S. and allied forces in Afghanistan, told the news media September 7 that a desecration of the Quran would put the lives of U.S. soldiers and Marines, and those of allied nations, at greater risk.

Petraeus said that burning the Quran would only serve the cause of extremists and "inflame public opinion and incite violence."

The U.S. embassies in Islamabad, Kabul and Baghdad also released statements condemning the planned desecration and affirming the United States' respect for Islam. "Americans from all religious and ethnic backgrounds reject the offensive initiative by this small group in Florida," the U.S. Embassy in Kabul said in a statement.

James Jeffrey, U.S. ambassador in Iraq, said the threat to burn the Quran is "disrespectful, divisive and disgraceful."

Rabbi David Saperstein, director of the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism, told reporters that Jews understand the nature of religious hatred.

"We know what it is like when people have attacked us physically, have attacked us verbally, and others have remained silent," Saperstein said. "It cannot happen here in America in 2010."

### **Variety of Ways to Donate to Pakistan Flood Relief**

Washington — The U.S. Department of State has established the Pakistan Relief Fund for all to join in the tremendous relief, recovery and reconstruction effort in the aftermath of Pakistan's devastating floods. Individuals, corporations and other organizations can send much-needed help to the people of Pakistan through a variety of means.

#### **IN THE UNITED STATES**

U.S.-based callers can help with relief efforts by texting "FLOOD" to the number 27722, which will contribute a \$10 donation to the State Department's Pakistan Relief Fund. In addition, by texting "SWAT" to the number 50555, U.S.-based callers can make a \$10 contribution that will help the United Nations provide the Pakistani people with tents, clothing, food, drinking water and medicine.

Working with mGive, U.S.-based callers are also contributing to Pakistan flood relief by texting the word "SWAT" to 50555. The text results in a donation of \$10 to the UNHCR Pakistan Flood Relief Effort. Every \$10 helps provide tents and emergency aid to displaced families.

Information on donating online or sending a contribution via the U.S. mail can be found at the Pakistan Relief Fund site and both methods are available to all donors anywhere.

#### IN PAKISTAN

People in Pakistan are invited to share information and updates by SMS texting the word FLOODS to 7111, the country's active Humari Awaz ("Our Voice") cell phone network. Through Humari Awaz, Pakistanis are able to update each other about the latest flood news, get information on valuable nongovernmental organization (NGO) grant and business opportunities and make new announcements of support, according to a State Department fact sheet. The Humari Awaz social network was launched by Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton during her visit to Pakistan in October 2009. Since the launch, the network's subscribers collectively have sent more than 350 million messages. To learn how to use Humari Awaz, mobile users in Pakistan need only SMS the words "HELP" or "MADAD" to 7111.

The government of Pakistan and the Pakistan cellular phone industry are inviting Pakistanis to contribute to the Prime Minister's Fund for Flood Relief by texting the amount of their donation to "1234." A number of NGOs and companies have announced the creation of trust funds or donations to the Prime Minister's Fund, according to State Department fact sheets.

#### ADDITIONAL DONATION INFORMATION

The most effective way people can assist is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Cash donations allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc.); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietarily and environmentally appropriate assistance.

A list of humanitarian organizations that are accepting cash donations for flood response efforts in Pakistan can be found at [www.interaction.org](http://www.interaction.org). Information about organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Pakistan may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int). More information is also available from the State Department, [www.state.gov/pakistanflooding](http://www.state.gov/pakistanflooding); the U.S. Agency for

International Development (USAID), [www.usaid.gov/pakistanflooding](http://www.usaid.gov/pakistanflooding); and the Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org).

As Secretary Clinton has said, the Pakistan flooding has affected more people than the 2010 Haiti earthquake, the 2005 Pakistan earthquake and the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami combined.

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