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Eid al-Fitr in America

Secretary Clinton on Eid al-Fitr

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Office of the Spokesperson
August 19, 2012

On the Occasion of Eid al-Fitr

As we mark the end of Ramadan, the holy month of fasting and prayer for Muslims around the world, I am delighted to wish all Muslims a peaceful and joyous Eid al-Fitr.

To honor this special time, Muslims in the United States and throughout the world will gather for Eid celebrations according to their rich and diverse traditions, celebrating the shared values of family, charity, and community. In times of change and uncertainty, the celebration of these common values brings us together and emphasizes the importance of greater cooperation and cross-cultural understanding.

As Secretary of State, it is my honor to host an Eid celebration at the Department of State in Washington every year. As we celebrate this year's event, we will honor the contributions of individuals who work to further dialogue, a shared vision and mutual respect between the United States and Muslim communities around the world so that together we may forge a new era of understanding and cooperation among all people.

Congratulations and best wishes to all Muslims around the world on this joyous day. Eid Mubarak.

Read more: http://goo.gl/m3stJ

Muslims across the United States were preparing to celebrate Eid al-Fitr, the end of Ramadan. Here are images from Eid al-Fitr from East Texas, Illinois, New York and Wisconsin.

Mohammad Aziz, president of the Islamic Society of Greater Valley Forge mosque in Berwyn, Pennsylvania, unfurls a carpet for people to pray on in preparation for Eid al-Fitr.

A 12-year-old girl in Marshfield, Wisconsin, shows off her hands, which are painted with henna designs for the Eid al-Fitr celebration.

Anas Moustapha of Oriental Pastry & Grocery Company prepares baklava for dessert at the store in Brooklyn, New York.

A girl hugs her father at Eid al-Fitr services marking the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan in Bridgeview, Illinois.

Muslim girls jump rope during a Ramadan celebration in a New York park.

Members of the East Texas Islamic community embrace during Eid al-Fitr celebrations.

The San Antonio Muslim Community comes together to celebrate Eid ul-Fitr

U.S. PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION HIGHLIGHTS

KONVENSI PARTAI POLITIK

Delegasi dari Ohio, Peggy Thanksley (kiri) and Cathryn Fellinger (kanan) pada Konvensi Nasional Partai Demokrat tahun 2008 di Denver, Colorado.

Sejarah Panggung Politik AS

Pada konvensi nasional partai Demokrat dan Partai Republik A.S di musim panas ini, ribuan delegasi dari kedua partai akan melambaikan bendera-bendera Amerika beserta pernak-pernik kampanye lainnya yang bertuliskan nama calon presiden dari masing-masing partai. Peristiwa ini akan menjadi pemandangan yang sangat luar biasa.

Meskipun kegembiraan di tempat konvensi terlihat natural, namun semua momen tersebut telah direncanakan dan diatur dengan baik untuk memberikan dampak maksimum bagi media-media seperti televisi, internet dan ponsel pintar.

"Anda akan memberikan sesuatu kepada mereka untuk dilambaikan, sehingga mereka bisa berpartisipasi", menurut William L. Bird, seorang curator sejarah politik dari *Smithsonian Institute* di Washington. "Orang-orang yang terlibat langsung dalam konvensi ini, tahu benar cara-cara menghidupkan konvensi".

David Mark dari *Politico*, sebuah outlet berita berkedudukan di Washington menuliskan "Suatu konvensi nasional partai politik, harus mencapai beberapa hal, seperti: konvensi harus mengadopsi prinsip-prinsip partai, dan secara formal mencalonkan kandidat presiden beserta wakilnya." Lebih lanjut Mark juga menyatakan "Hal-hal lainnya yang biasa tercakup dalam konvensi seperti pidato-pidato penerimaan, pidato utama, dan proses roll call vote merupakan hal kecil dan bukan keharusan di panggung politik".

Konvensi 2012

Konvensi diadakan beberapa bulan sebelum pemilihan presiden, yang dijadwalkan 6 November tahun ini. Partisan partai Republik akan berkumpul di Tampa, Florida dari 27 sampai 30 Agustus, dan partisan partai Demokrat akan berkumpul dari 3 sampai 6 September di Charlotte, Carolina Utara. Lebih dari 35,000 orang – termasuk anggota dan delegasi partai, jurnalis, pasukan keamanan dan penyedia jasa lainnya, diantisipasi akan membanjiri kedua kota tersebut.

Sebagaimana banyak aspek dalam dunia politik AS, konvensi partai nasional telah mengalami perubahan-perubahan dari waktu ke waktu untuk mengakomodasi kebutuhan para pemilih. Konstitusi AS tidak memberikan acuan kepada partai-partai politik atau tidak juga memberikan pedoman mengenai proses seleksi bagi para kandidat sampai mereka berhasil menempati kursi kepresidenan, tapi mekanisme dibuat dan diadaptasi untuk mengisi kekosongan yang ditinggalkan Konstitusi tersebut.

Berawal pada tahun 1976, anggota-anggota Kongres bersama dengan salah satu partai politik saat itu bertemu secara informal untuk menyetujui kandidat presiden dan wakil presiden mereka. Sistem seleksi ini, yang dikenal dengan nama "*King Caucus*", berlanjut hingga hampir selama 30 tahun tapi tidak dipergunakan lagi pada tahun 1824 ketika pergerakan politik nasional mengarah ke barat dan mengakibatkan terjadinya desentralisasi kekuasaan.

Konvensi Nasional secara berangsur menggantikan *King Caucus* sebagai alat untuk memilih kandidat dari partai-partai yang berlaga. Pada tahun 1831, suatu partai kecil yang bernama Anti-Mason mengadakan pertemuan di Baltimore untuk memilih kandidat mereka dan menuliskan platform partai. Setahun kemudian, Parta Demokrat bertemu di tempat yang sama untuk melakukan hal yang sama juga.

Sejak saat itu, baik partai-partai besar dan partai-partai kecil telah mengadakan konvensi-konvensi nasional dimana delegasi negara bagian melakukan voting untuk memilih kandidat presiden dan wakil presiden mereka dan juga menuliskan posisi kebijakan partai mereka. Hampir sepanjang abad 19, konvensi pemilihan kandidat presiden dikendalikan oleh pimpinan-pimpinan partai yang memilih delegasi dari negara bagian dari mana mereka berasal dan juga mengatur jalannya proses pemilihan itu sendiri.

Pemilihan-Pemilihan Utama

(*Primary Elections*)

Sebagian besar pemilih yang menghendaki adanya reformasi pada tahun-tahun awal abad ke 20 telah menggiring diadakannya pemilihan-pemilihan utama yang memperbolehkan pemilih untuk memilih delegasi konvensi secara langsung. Pada tahun 1916, lebih dari setengah negara bagian telah mengadakan pemilihan pendahuluan (*presidential primaries*). Setelah Perang Dunia I, pimpinan-pimpinan partai telah berhasil membujuk badan pembuat kebijakan untuk menghapuskan sistem pemilihan pendahuluan ini. Pada tahun 1936, hanya selusin negara bagian yang tetap memberlakukan sistem pemilihan pendahuluan ini. Titik balik akhirnya terjadi pada pertengahan abad ke 20, ketika televisi membuat komunikasi antara kandidat dan pemilihnya menjadi semakin langsung dan meningkatkan minat para pemilih dalam proses pemilihan itu sendiri.

Delegasi melambaikan pernak pernik di Konvensi Partai Republik tahun 2008 di St. Paul, Minnesota.

Dalam tiap penghujung dekade, pemilihan pendahuluan semakin banyak dilakukan dan bakal calon partai menjadi semakin ditentukan jauh sebelum konvensi nasional, berdasarkan hasil dari pemilihan pendahuluan pada tingkat negara bagian.

Proporsi dari delegasi negara bagian yang diajukan ke konvensi nasional dihitung berdasarkan formula yang dikembangkan oleh tiap partai dengan mempertimbangkan populasi negara bagian, dukungan sebelumnya yang diberikan terhadap kandidat partai pada level nasional, dan pimpinan partai yang sekarang ini menjabat pada level negara bagian dan level nasional yang berasal dari negara bagian tersebut. Formula alokasi Partai Demokrat menghasilkan delegasi sebanyak kurang lebih dua kali lipat delegasi dari Partai Republik.

"Di masa lampau, konvensi nasional berfungsi sebagai badan penentu keputusan, sehingga benar-benar menentukan bakal calon partai", kata Eric Appleman, produser dari website non-partisan *Democracy in Action*. "Seseorang dapat mengajukan argumentasi bahwa konvensi pada periode Amerika moderen kuranglebih seperti iklan yang disiarkan selama empat hari dengan konsep yang sudah dibuat untuk kepentingan penonton televise."

Konvensi tetap penting bagi partai-partai politik, kata Eric, karena momen tersebut memberikan energi bagi para tokoh partai politik untuk berkampanye di musim gugur, "dan, jika semua berjalan dengan baik,maka dukungan masyarakat akan membawa kandidat ke kursi ke presidenan."

Sumber: Political Party Conventions (IIP Online Pamphlet, July 13, 2012) http://goo.gl/1JFvR

U.S. ELECTIONS 2012

1. Decker, John. **OBAMA AND ROMNEY: THE PATH TO THE PRECIDENCY** (Policy Review, August & September 2012)

It is certain to be the most expensive presidential race on record and it's shaping up to be one of the closest as well. With less than three months until Election Day, the campaigns of President Barack Obama and his Republican challenger, former Massachusetts Governor Mitt Romney, are each figuring out which path will lead them to 270 electoral votes and the keys to the White House. According to this argument, the same voters that were fired up in the 2010 midterms will be energized in the November presidential election. Full text is available at http://goo.gl/myBsU

2. Grundwald, Michael **THINK AGAIN: OBAMA'S NEW DEAL** (Foreign Policy, Sept.&Oct. 2012)

The US Pres Barack Obama's $787 billion stimulus bill was certainly a political failure. Obama signed it during his first month in office, cutting taxes for more than 95% of American workers, while pouring cash into health care, education, energy, infrastructure, and aid to victims of the Great Recession. It was textbook Keynesian economics, using public dollars to revive private demand, but within a year, the percentage of those who thought it had created jobs was lower. Nearly four years later, Obama's economic recovery bill is at the heart of the debate over his campaign for a second term. Keynesian stimulus has since become a political football, but before Obama took office, just about everyone agreed that when the economy slumps, government can boost growth and create jobs by injecting money into the economy, whether by taxing less or spending more.

3. McDermott, Irene E. **YOUTH VOTES! THE 2012 U.S. ELECTIONS** (eJournal USA, IIP Digital August 2012)

This issue of eJournal USA looks at how the Millennials — Americans born from the early 1980s to the mid-1990s — are changing the face of the U.S. electorate and politics. How are they different from previous generations? What is at stake for the Millennial Generation in the November 2012 election? Are they joining the two major U.S. political parties? And why do they support various candidates and causes? You will find answers to many of these questions in a Facebook debate between young Democratic and Republican activists, in blogs by campaign volunteers and in the Millennial Generation portrait grounded in recent data. Read more at http://goo.gl/hW7Qm

GLOBAL ISSUES

4. Dobbs, Richard and Remes, Jaana **INTRODUCING… THE MOST DYNAMIC CITIES OF 2025** (Foreign Policy, Sept./Oct. 2012)

If there's any bright spot in an otherwise dim outlook for the global economy, it's the rise of cities. With fragile growth in Europe and the US, the shift in economic balance toward the East and South is happening with unprecedented speed and scale -- and it's happening through urbanization. Quite simply, people are witnessing the biggest economic transformation the world has ever seen as the populations of cities in emerging markets expand and see their incomes rise as never before, producing massive geopolitical shifts and a wave of new consumers whose spending power will change the way the world shops and invests. Which is why the author has put together the unique index of The Most Dynamic Cities of 2025, some 40% of which are in just one country: China. In 2010, China's metropolitan regions accounted for 78% of its GDP. A list of the Most Dynamic Cities of 2025 is presented. Full text is available at http://goo.gl/5wSAE

5. **GLOBAL GENERATION: THE MODEL UN EXPERIENCE** (eJournal USA, IIP Digital August 2012)

Model United Nations (Model UN) — a simulation where students role-play UN delegates — is more than just an after-school activity. It is an opportunity to change the world. By stepping into the shoes of UN delegates representing their countries' interests to the global community, Model UN participants build the knowledge, skills and relationships needed to build a better global future. Model UN is a transformative experience that deepens participants' understanding of the world and their place within it. Delegates emerge from Model UN with open minds, fresh ideas and new friends. With the skills they develop in speaking, writing, negotiating and diplomacy, it is no surprise that many go on to become community and world leaders. Read more: http://goo.gl/Jr8h5

U.S. EDUCATION, SOCIETY & VALUES

6. Collins, Bradley. **HOW PUBLIC LIBRARIES ARE A BOON TO SMALL BUSINESS** (American Libraries, July/August 2012)

Libraries from coast to coast have won accolades for being oases in the unemployment desert for millions of job seekers using their libraries' free internet computers to sharpen their interview skills and sift through job boards. Much less recognized is that many libraries are also making important contributions to the nation's economic recovery by assisting the job creators in small-to-medium-size businesses. Full report is available online at http://goo.gl/QFwUs

7. Jonathan Kozol **THE OTHER AMERICA: GIVING OUR POOREST CHILDREN THE SAME OPPORTUNITIES AS OUR RICHEST** (School Library Journal, August 2012)

Over the past five years, I've returned to the New York neighborhood in which I met the children whom I first described in Savage Inequalities, Amazing Grace, and other books I published in the 1990s. The neighborhood is called Mott Haven. It's the poorest section in all of the South Bronx, which is the poorest Congressional district in America. I wanted to answer the questions many readers ask: What happened to these children? How many were unable to prevail against the obstacles they faced? How many have survived? Not surprisingly, easy access to good books—and, more to the point, a plentitude of books to satisfy the curiosities and stir the latent interests of the very wide variety of children that I met—turned out to be decisive. And this, of course, is where libraries come in. Full text is available at http://goo.gl/GUXrb

8. Weaver, Kenneth F. **THE FLIGHT OF APOLLO 11** (National Geographic Magazine, December 1969)

This article is to remember Neil Armstrong and was originated published in December 1969. Two thousand feet above the Sea of Tranquillity, the little silver, black, and gold space bug named Eagle braked itself with a tail of flame as it plunged toward the face of the moon. The two men inside standing like the motorman in a 19th—century trolley car-strained to see their goal. Guided by numbers from their computer, they sighted through a grid on one triangular window. Suddenly they spotted the onrushing target. What they saw set the adrenalin pumping and the blood racing. Instead of the level, obstacle-free plain called for in the Apollo 11 flight plan, they were aimed for a sharply etched crater, 600 feet across and surrounded by heavy boulders.

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