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"RAMADAN MUBARAK"

MUSLIM LIFE AND DIVERSITY IN AMERICA

July 16, 2013



President Obama's Message to Muslims on Ramadan

(In Bahasa Malaysia) **Mesej Presiden Obama kepada Umat Islam Sempena Ramadan**

With the start of the sacred month of Ramadan, Michelle and I extend our best wishes to Muslim communities here in the United States and around the world.

For the world's 1.5 billion Muslims, Ramadan is a time for thoughtful reflection, fasting and devotion. It is also an opportunity for family and friends to come together and celebrate the principles that bind people of different faiths – a commitment to peace, justice, equality and compassion towards our fellow human beings. These bonds are far stronger than the differences that too often drive us apart.

This month also reminds us that freedom, dignity and opportunity are the undeniable rights of all mankind. We reflect on these universal values at a time when many citizens across the Middle East and North Africa continue to strive for these basic rights and as millions of refugees mark Ramadan far from their homes. The United States stands with those who are working to build a world where all people can write their own future and practice their faith freely, without fear of violence.

In the United States, Ramadan is a reminder that millions of Muslim Americans enrich our nation each day — serving in our government, leading scientific breakthroughs, generating jobs and caring for our neighbors in need. I have been honored to host an iftar dinner at the White House each of the past four years, and this year I look forward to welcoming Muslim Americans who are contributing to our country as entrepreneurs, activists and artists.

I wish Muslims across America and around the world a month blessed with the joys of family, peace and understanding. Ramadan Kareem.

[A Souped-Up Van Feeds the Hungry](#)

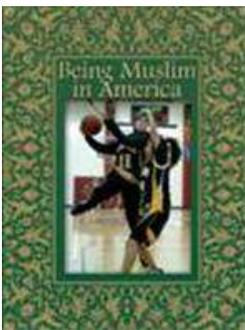
For Muslims living in religiously diverse countries like the United States, Ramadan offers a time to demonstrate Islamic beliefs to neighbors who practice other religions.

It was during Ramadan in 2000 that community organizer Zamir Hassan felt compelled to help end hunger in his New Jersey town. Especially during Ramadan, “if you go to bed with your stomach full but your neighbor is hungry, you have not fulfilled your obligation as a Muslim,” Hassan said. [Download full text.](#)



[A Multicultural Ramadan](#)

Muslims in America will observe Ramadan in different ways, blending their own cultural customs with Islamic traditions. American Muslims trace their ancestry to more than 80 countries. America.gov explores the richness of these diverse traditions through the lens of Ramadan.



[Being Muslim in America](#)

With freedom, faith, and hard work, each successive wave of immigrants has added its distinctive contributions to the American story. And today, this story is the Muslim-American story too, a part of the larger fabric of American society. [Download a PDF of this book on Being Muslim in America.](#)

Multimedia

[Ramadan in America Is About Community](#) – Video (1.47 min)

[Religious Diversity: 3 Faiths Building Community](#) – Video (2 min)

[Diversity: American Ramadan](#) - Video (2 min.)

[Eid in America](#) – Video (3 min.)

[Celebrating Ramadan in America: A Photo Gallery](#)

[Mosques in America: A Photo Gallery](#)

Additional Articles Reflecting Muslim Life and Diversity in America

[Islam: Bigger in Texas](#)

[Enjoying the Ride](#)

[Reflecting on Blessings](#)

[Devout Muslims in Palmyra, New Jersey](#)

[Generating Laughs — and Critical Thinking](#)

[Serving All Faiths](#)

[A Time for Prayer](#)

[Nourishing Families in Need](#)

[Coming Together to Break the Fast](#)

[Practicing Their Faith — and American Football](#)

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