

Secretary Kerry on Ramadan

17 June 2015

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE
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STATEMENT BY SECRETARY KERRY

On Ramadan

On behalf of the U.S. Department of State, Teresa and I wish all Muslims a happy and blessed Ramadan.

Ramadan is a season for heightened reflection, worship, compassion, and community. For Muslims everywhere, this special month provides spiritual nourishment and reinforces appreciation for the universal value -- and values -- of humanity. It is also a time to reflect on awareness of the responsibility of people of all faiths to help those in need, including those stricken by poverty and the victims of conflict in such countries as Burma, Iraq, Libya, Nigeria, Somalia, Syria, and Yemen. Ramadan underscores the beauty in community -- one that eats, prays and works together -- and that answers the sacred call that we desire for others what we desire for ourselves.

Along with many of our embassies around the world, the Department of State will once again host a celebration in honor of Ramadan. In the months to come, we will remain in constant dialogue with the governments of Muslim-majority countries and with Muslim communities at home and abroad. One of the great strengths of our nation is the diversity both of its citizens and of its overseas partners; and one of the core elements of our diplomacy is our desire to communicate clearly with others in support of the fundamental rights and dignity of every human being.

As the holy month of Ramadan begins, I wish all Muslims a joyful *Ramadan Kareem*.

Read

more: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov/st/english/texttrans/2015/06/20150617316302.html#ixzz3dQzxiwvY>