



ICRD Monthly Update

August 5, 2016

Saudi Education Minister Visits ICRD



Earlier this week, the Minister of Education from Saudi Arabia, H.E. Dr. Ahmed Aleisa, visited ICRD to lead a round-table discussion on educational reform in the Kingdom. It provided a perfect opportunity to discuss in some detail the findings and recommendations that have emerged from our five-year project to help facilitate such reforms, an effort that has already borne important fruit. Our study on the global impact of the extremist-leaning content in their textbooks, for example, led directly to a recent initiative by their government to retrieve the textbooks which include that content from those countries where they are being used and to replace them with a newer, revised edition that does not.

We had a lively and highly positive exchange with the Minister, and a number of helpful suggestions were offered by those in attendance, including senior representatives from the U.S. Departments of State and Education. Although our project concluded on June 30, the Saudi Foreign Minister recently asked our State

Department to continue the effort. Whether that will happen or not is an open question, but the progress to date has been highly encouraging.



Continuing Faith in Action

Our 2016 Faith-in-Action Award winner continues to impress. Below is a picture of Imam Mohamed Magid orchestrating an Iftar dinner at his mosque in Northern Virginia.



At our earlier dinner honoring Imam Magid, White House Chief of Staff Dennis McDonough, offered praise for ICRD in the course of celebrating the guest of honor ([link](#)). The same was true for a letter from The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary of Homeland Security, which was read at the dinner ([link](#)). In short, our work is beginning to be appreciated at the highest levels of government.

Despite the progress and recognition, though, we need added funding from private sources for our work in those highly sensitive areas where government funding would be a liability. Many thanks for whatever you can do.

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With best wishes,

Douglas Johnston
President, ICRD



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