



ICRD Monthly Update

June 30, 2014

A Memorable Occasion

First the good news. I am pleased to report that our annual dinner was a great success. Among the highlights was a presentation by Bud McFarlane, former National Security Advisor to President Reagan, in which he paid tribute to ICRD's role in bridging the long-standing gap in U.S. foreign policy with respect to addressing religion's influence on the world stage. In the process, he reviewed some of the more telling security challenges facing the United States. This, in turn, set the stage for us to share what ICRD is doing to address some of these challenges, including a riveting presentation by Brian Cox on the Center's work in Syria.



Dinner guests assemble for reception



Former National Security Advisor Bud McFarlane receives expression of appreciation for his keynote speech



Erie! Huang of South Africa entertains guests

This was followed by our presentation of dual Faith-in-Action Awards to Imam Feisal Rauf, Chairman of the Cordoba Initiative, and his wife Daisy Khan, Executive Director of the American Society for Muslim Advancement, for their separate but highly important contributions to religious peacemaking. Daisy is leading a global effort to empower the role of women in Islam, and Feisal is doing much the same in countering Islamic extremism. Feisal is also playing a major role in building bridges between Islam and the West, as reflected in his widely acclaimed book, "*What's Right with Islam is What's Right with America*."



Imam Feisal Rauf addresses the audience



ICRD Board Chairman Harold Jacobi thanks Ray and Shaista Mahmood for hosting the dinner



Daisy Khan receives Faith-in-Action Award

The choice of Feisal to receive the award was somewhat controversial in light of his earlier identification with the so-called "Ground Zero Mosque". Beyond the fact that it wasn't a mosque and wasn't within sight of Ground Zero, [the award presentation and Feisal's acceptance remarks](#) help set the record straight on that unfortunate episode.



Exacerbating the Challenge in Syria

As for the not so good news, two weeks ago, ISIS (the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria) issued a horrific mandate to its fighters that could devastate the city of Al-Qamishly and its inhabitants. This city lies squarely in the heart of the Al-Hassake region of Syria, where ICRD recently facilitated a social contract between the Kurds, Syriac Christians, and Arab Bedouin tribal leaders that will enable them to live in peace once the fighting subsides. The threat is consistent with what ISIS has

been doing elsewhere and indicative of the context in which ICRD is working in Syria (and to a similar degree, Pakistan). **In this difficult-to-impossible situation, we need as much supernatural power as we can muster; so your prayers would be deeply appreciated.**

With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Doug Johnston".

Douglas Johnston
President, ICRD

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