

In the name of Allah the Gracious, the Merciful

*((O ye who believe! fasting is prescribed for you, as it was prescribed for those before you, so that you may become righteous))*

Your Excellences, Attaché's, Eminencies, Ladies and Gentlemen:

As we hail this holy month of Ramadan, that Allah prefers to the virtue of other months, in which we are closer to God, I would like to extend to all Muslims -- and our Iraqi community in the United States -- the warmest congratulations and blessings, and wish you all happiness and prosperity.

My dear brothers and sisters, we meet with the inspiring hope that this holy month will represent a great opportunity to reflect on our reality, at a time when Iraq is facing great challenges by forces of darkness and evil. These challenges require that we stand together against their schemes that call to instigate sectarian strife in our country. We consider these sacred days as a platform to unify our people and consolidate the principles of peaceful coexistence and to build a strong society that puts national interest above any other differences.

The current circumstances we are experiencing in Iraq and the region requires us to support and entrench ourselves in dialogue and understanding, and overcome mistakes and negativity; and further, to focus on all good efforts in keeping Iraq united to stand against those people who call for discrimination and division and stay away from all practices and activities that will not serve the stability, security, unity and integrity of our country and our community. Let the reasonable voices be heard by the whole world; a message to all our families in Iraq that we are with you wherever we are.

Let us make our prayers in this holy month to be for the safety of Iraq and its people. We call on our people to adopt a united stance against those who don't understand the changes that took place in Iraq and who believe they can obstruct the future of a whole nation to serve their selfish interests and unlawful greed.

You are the core of Iraq and although you live far away from our homeland, you will always be close through your memories and nostalgia, and someday you will go back to Iraq to be part of rebuilding and healing of our wounds; for this to happen we must have a strong, educated and tight community willing to use the culture and knowledge of advanced nations, e.g. the United States, as a means to restore the glory of Iraq that nations dream of over the centuries.

As you know, the Embassy doors are always open to you – to serve you and take care of Iraqi national interests in the United States of America -- without any political partisanship or religious bias. The Embassy is for all Iraqi's and its goals align with the national Iraqi identity.