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AFRICA, GLOBAL HEALTH, GLOBAL HUMAN  
RIGHTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS  
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION

April 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

It is with great pleasure that I wish a joyful Ramadan Mubarak to Islamic Relief USA and our Muslim community at home.

As we enter the holy month of Ramadan during these turbulent times, I am reminded of the core principles and teachings that this celebration provides to us. This is a time when we are meant to step out of our daily routines – not simply to be hungry, but to be reminded of the struggles that those less fortunate in society face every day. By having a better understanding of what others don't have, we better ourselves through service and *sadaqah*, or charity.

Islamic Relief USA and Muslim Americans throughout the country have been putting these very principles into practice during this pandemic, providing much needed humanitarian relief to their neighbors and communities. Our Muslim American community has historically shown love, strength, resilience, and unity in difficult times, and we continue to do so now.

In my own home district, Islamic Relief partnered with the Al-Maa'uun food program at Masjid an-Nur in Minneapolis, providing thousands of dollars in grants to continue critical food pantry and emergency food security work. Their commitment to social service, responding to the needs of vulnerable and working class communities disproportionately affected by the Coronavirus pandemic, embodies deeply the true spirit of Ramadan.

I know this time is a challenge for all of us, and many will be celebrating Ramadan this year away from family and loved ones as we observe social distancing safe at home. But it is during this exact time that we must take care to remember those less fortunate. As is said in Surah al-Inshirah, "So, undoubtedly, with every hardship there is ease. Undoubtedly, with every hardship, there is ease." (Quran 94:5-6). Through the strength of our connections with one another, we will persevere.

Once again, Ramadan Mubarak!

Sincerely,

Ilhan Omar  
Member of Congress