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April 17, 2020

Sharif Aly, Chief Executive Officer
Islamic Relief USA
3655 Wheeler Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22304

Dear CEO Aly, Officers, Board Members and Members:

To the Islamic Relief USA family and Muslims everywhere, I offer a sincere Ramadan Mubarak! or Happy Ramadan!

Though set to begin April 23, 2020, this year's special month of fasting, spiritual reflection and self-sacrifice comes at a very critical time for all humanity. As the world faces the challenge of the destructive Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, people of all faiths are working together and supplicating for relief and healing. The traditions of Ramadan -- self-sacrifice and spiritual dedication -- can be appreciated by all. The prayers and works by people of all faiths to overcome all problems and heal the world, will be heard and grace given. I believe that! Through the denial of food and drink, offering of special prayers and the reading of the Holy Qur'an, Ramadan encourages Muslims the world over to experience spiritual renewal, self-reflection, a sense of community and charity. I pray the blessings of Ramadan can contribute mightily in this challenge now facing all humanity.

IRUSA works to end poverty, hunger and suffering across the nation and the world. Regrettably, your anticipated 10th Annual Capitol Hill Interfaith Ramadan Dinner will be postponed due to the pandemic. However, I doubt if your spirit and fortitude will be weakened, but instead become stronger with a greater resolve. Like so many people of faith, you were built for this challenge and to be an inspiration to all.

Your Interfaith Partnerships and Advocacy work is to be commended. I support your efforts to expand interfaith collaborations with other religious groups, and in response to the humanitarian needs of the world. And I thank you for your commitment of \$1.9 million to fund the domestic response to the COVID-19 pandemic, via anti-hunger and food security programs. May God be pleased!

In closing, you honor me with this chance to wish IRUSA and Muslims everywhere, a blessed Ramadan Mubarak! May God bless your continuing efforts to promote peace, spiritual harmony and brotherhood.

Sincerely,

Wm. Lacy Clay

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Member of Congress