

Monthly Newsletter

June 2015

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Dear Friends,

On behalf of the entire KARAMAH family, I want to wish all of you a very happy and blessed Ramadan.

This blessed month could not have come at a better time. Our global communities need to heal. Every day, it seems, there are new reports of the various struggles and violence afflicting our communities both in the U.S. and globally. Even today we are saddened by the news of a potential hate crime at a house of worship in Charleston, S.C.

This Ramadan, KARAMAH is recommitting itself to advocating for justice. We remind ourselves of our duty to advocate for our collective God-given dignity. Indeed, God says in the Qur'an: "we have given dignity (*karamah*) to all the children of Adam ..." (17:70). While we celebrate the many blessings of this month, we are aware that many are struggling and we continue to remember this entire *ummah* in our prayers.

KARAMAH is very appreciative for your support, and we wish to celebrate this blessed month with you. Please join us for *iftar* at Masjid Muhammad on Monday, June 22. Also, as you plan your *zakat* contributions this Ramadan, we ask that you remember us.

Best,

Aisha Rahman
Executive Director



Historic Leaders and Scholars Summit Yields High Priorities



KARAMAH welcomes the U.S. Supreme Court ruling (8-1) in favor of Samantha Elauf, a Muslim American woman who wears a headscarf. Ms. Elauf was denied a job by Abercrombie & Fitch Co. on the grounds that her headscarf violated the company's "look policy." The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) sued Abercrombie on behalf of Ms. Elauf and prevailed. The Supreme Court ruled that "an employer may not make an applicant's religious practice, confirmed or otherwise, a factor in employment decisions." KARAMAH was a signatory to two amici curiae briefs for the EEOC in this case. We celebrate this important victory which ensures religious freedom and protection in the workplace.

[Read the Supreme Court's Decision](#)

***Did you Watch PBS Documentary
Featuring KARAMAH?***

To The Contrary

Last April, PBS broadcast a special episode of its show *To the Contrary* with Bonnie Erbé titled "Gender Equality in Islam." The documentary covered KARAMAH's work in the US and globally. KARAMAH scholars from around the globe were interviewed about our vision: that we live in a world in which all human beings, regardless of gender or other differences, enjoy their God-given right of dignity. KARAMAH believes that through education, women will be empowered to transform archaic, culture-based interpretations of women's status in Islam, to the betterment of themselves and their communities. This documentary showed KARAMAH and its impact around the world, featuring especially our work in Asia and North Africa.

[Watch it Now!](#)

The Status of Women and Democracy: A Discussion with U.S.-MEPI Leaders for Democracy Fellows



On Monday, May 18th, KARAMAH's executive director Aisha Rahman and family law staff attorney Julia Bizer met with eight fellows from the U.S.-Middle East Partnership

Initiative's Leaders for Democracy Fellowship (LDF) program to conduct a workshop educating the group about gender equity in Islam, Islamic principles of democracy, and Muslim women's financial rights. The fellows hailed from numerous countries in the Middle East including Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, and Syria, and the topics of discussion focused on misinterpretations of Islamic law and obstacles to Muslim women's empowerment in the U.S. and globally.

[Read more!](#)

Save the Date: Iftar at Masjid Muhammad on June 22nd



Please join us on Monday June 22nd for KARAMAH's Annual Community *Iftar* at Masjid Muhammad in Washington D.C. We are looking forward to breaking our fast with you.

[Find more information about the event here!](#)

You Can Still Apply to LLSP !



We are still accepting applications from American Muslim women interested in participating in KARAMAH's [Law and Leadership Summer Program \(LLSP\)](#) July 27th- August 15th, 2015. We already received numerous applications from around the globe and we are happy to report that LLSP this year will have participants from Western Europe, South East Europe, Africa, Central Asia and North America .

[Apply today!](#)

Meet our Fantastic Summer Interns



Caitlin McCallister
University of
Richmond



Akua Amaning
John Marshall Law
School



Eman Humsy
Mount Holyoke
College



Taryn Armstrong
The University of
British Columbia



Lorentz Hansen
The University of
Chicago

Read more about our interns [here](#)
Do you want to intern at KARAMAH as well? [Apply here!](#)

Join us in Welcoming our New Staff Members!



El Batoule Alaoui
Managing Director



Julia Bizer, Esq.
Staff Attorney



Hind Essayegh
Communications Associate

Support KARAMAH

"Who is it that would loan God a goodly loan so He may multiply it for him many times over? And it is God who withholds and grants abundance, and to Him you will be returned." (Qur'an, 2:45)

Support KARAMAH while buying Ramadan or *Eid* gifts online.

Donate through [AmazonSmile](#) OR [on our Website](#)



KARAMAH ON THE WEB



KARAMAH: Muslim Women Lawyers for Human Rights is a nonprofit organization committed to promoting human rights globally, especially gender equity, religious freedom and civil rights in the United States. It pursues its mission through education, legal outreach and advocacy.

Have any questions or concerns? Email karamah@karamah.org