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 Title: HOW TO REALLY FIGHT TERRORISM
 Authors: Steven Emerson
 Source: The Wall Street Journal
 Date: Monday Aug 24, 1998 Sec: A p: 12
 Length: Long (1340 words) Type: Commentary Illus:
 Illustration
 Subjects: Terrorism; Bombings; Foreign policy
 Names: Clinton, Bill

see p. 3

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Article Text:

Last week's strikes against terrorist camps in Afghanistan and Sudan were long overdue. But they will amount to nothing unless Washington truly undertakes a sustained and comprehensive counterterrorist program -- one that aims at drying up terrorist financing, taking away terrorist safe havens and denying terrorists religious legitimacy:

-- Financing. Terrorists have become very sophisticated in laundering and disguising their funds. They use a variety of financial vehicles -- front companies, charitable organizations, third-party bank accounts -- to disguise the location of their assets. Osama bin Laden's most impressive achievement has been his ability to shield from scrutiny and seizure his \$300 million financial empire, held in a financial labyrinth of world-wide shell companies, co-investors, governmental entities, bank accounts, religious 'charities' and plain old blue-chip investments. A portion of Mr. bin Laden's 'portfolio' is held in U.S. and British banks under third party names and transferred to Islamic religious charities operating under false cover.

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But this seizure was exceptional. Although the U.S. prohibits fund-raising for terrorist groups and Congress has enacted several laws to seize financial assets of terrorist groups, relatively few dollars have ever been seized. For the 1996 anti-terrorist law

does not name front groups but rather the 'brand names' of terrorist groups, like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. These organizations never hold their assets in their real names. Neither does Mr. bin Laden.

At the very least, Congress should amend the antiterror legislation to designate the front groups operating on behalf of terrorist movements. In addition, Congress should mandate a separate advanced law-enforcement unit dedicated to tracking down the financial assets of terrorist organizations, similar to the strike forces that specialize in identifying Mafia assets.

-- Safe Havens. Going after the terrorist camps in Afghanistan and Sudan will only dent the terrorist infrastructure. There are at least five other Middle East safe havens for international terrorists. Lebanon hosts the Hezbollah, and Syria hosts 10 Palestinian terror groups as well as the anti-Turkish Kurdistan Workers Party. Libya still protects the Pan Am 103 bombers as well as Abu Nidal. Iran hosts and trains Hezbollah, Hamas, the Islamic Jihad and the Armed Islamic Group, among others. And the Palestinian Authority-ruled West Bank and Gaza are safe havens for scores of terrorists, including at least twelve who have killed U.S. citizens.

Mr. bin Laden has demonstrated an impressive ability to consolidate operational alliances between more than a dozen Middle Eastern terrorist groups, which normally do not collaborate with one another. In facilitating the bombings of U.S. military targets in Saudi Arabia in 1995 and 1996 that killed 24 Americans, Mr. bin Laden, a Sunni Muslim, was able to forge a unique coalition with Iranian Shiites, who normally are religious enemies.

If the going gets too tough in Afghanistan, Mr. bin Laden could find refuge in Iran or in Lebanon, where thousands of Hezbollah and Palestinian terrorists openly train. Next door is Syria, whose hospitality has been extended to the entire spectrum of radical Palestinian groups, which are allowed to direct operations from training camps on the outskirts of Damascus.

In the West Bank and Gaza -- where Hamas spiritual leader Ahmed Yassin and other clerics vowed Friday on behalf of Muslims around the world to avenge the U.S. strikes against Mr. bin Laden -- scores of Palestinian terrorists known to have participated in terrorist murders roam free under the protection of Yasser Arafat. The 'escape' this past week of senior Hamas terrorist Adel Awadallah was, by one Israeli count, the 160th 'escape' of a Palestinian terrorist in four years. So far the U.S. Justice Department has scandalously refused to issue indictments and demand extradition of the Palestinian killers of Americans (including four who are members of Mr. Arafat's security forces), even though U.S. law obligates the department to do so.

If President Clinton is truly serious about closing down all terrorist safe havens, then he will have to clamp down on the other sanctuaries given to terrorists. Going after the politically easy targets of Afghanistan and Sudan will not suffice.

-- Religious legitimacy. If Mr. Clinton truly wants to uphold the critical distinction between the minority of militant Islamic fundamentalists and the vast majority of the world's Muslims who oppose terrorism, he can start at home. The president and other public officials ought to stop legitimizing self-declared 'civil rights' and 'mainstream' Islamic organizations that in fact operate as propaganda and political arms of Islamic fundamentalist movements. Leaders of such organizations have been repeatedly invited to White House receptions and granted audiences with top officials.

The Council on American Islamic Relations has claimed that the term 'Islamic fundamentalist' is itself racist and that writing about Islamic terrorism leads to 'hate

crimes.' The council has defended Hamas chieftain Musa Marzuk, defended the Sudanese Islamic government and characterized the trial of Sheik Omar Abdul Rahman, convicted for his role in the World Trade Center bombing conspiracy, in its annual roundup of 'hate-crimes' and acts of 'bias' against Muslims. CAIR officials have been invited to White House receptions hosted by Hillary Clinton, the most recent being in January to mark the end of Ramadan. Several months later, CAIR co-sponsored a rally at Brooklyn College in New York, where a visiting Egyptian cleric led the audience in a song, 'No to the Jews, Descendants of Apes.'

Two years ago, the Clinton administration allowed the American Muslim Council to organize the reception marking the end of Ramadan at the White House. The American Muslim Council has consistently promoted and defended Hamas, Turkey's fundamentalist Welfare Party, the Muslim Brotherhood and other militant Islamic movements. The Ramadan reception held by the White House this year was organized by the Muslim Public Affairs Council, a Los Angeles-based group whose officials have repeatedly defended Hezbollah and other Islamic terrorist movements, while publicly insisting that they condemn terrorism.

'Our battle against terrorism did not begin with the bombing of our embassies in Africa, nor will it end with today's strike,' Mr. Clinton told the nation Thursday. 'There will be no sanctuary for terrorists.' Time will tell whether the president and his administration will match his words with deeds.

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(See related letters: 'Letters to the Editor: Don't Condemn Islam Over Fanatics' -- WSJ Sept. 2, 1998)

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FOCUS - 15 OF 16 STORIES

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Los Angeles Times

January 28, 1998, Wednesday, Home Edition

SECTION: Metro; Part B; Page 1; Metro Desk

LENGTH: 1271 words

HEADLINE: A MILESTONE FOR MUSLIMS;
INVITATION FOR LOS ANGELES GROUPS TO CELEBRATE THE END OF RAMADAN AT **WHITE HOUSE** SHOWS GROWING ACCEPTANCE OF ISLAM

BYLINE: JOCELYN Y. STEWART, TIMES STAFF WRITER

BODY:

Imam Abdul Karim Hasan converted to Islam 42 years ago, when being a Muslim meant being viewed as a heathen, a threat, an outcast. Back then, Muslim holy days passed quietly in the Islamic community, mostly unnoticed by the rest of the nation.

"It only made us work harder to make the public aware of Islam as one of the world's revealed religions," said Hasan, who heads the Bilal Islamic Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Central Avenue in Los Angeles. "I've seen the change from just ignoring Islam altogether, to rejecting it, to tolerating it, and now recognizing it. As a religion and as a community, we have come a long way."

Just how far they have come will be evident in the nation's capital this week when the **White House** hosts a celebration Thursday of **Eid al-Fitr**, marking the end of the Muslim holy month Ramadan. This year's celebration, an outgrowth of Hillary Rodham Clinton's efforts, has been hailed as an indication of a move toward greater acceptance of Muslims.

The **White House** has selected two Los Angeles-based groups--the Muslim Public Affairs Council and the Muslim Women's League--to help organize Thursday's celebration.

"For the first lady of the United States to recognize the significant contributions of Muslims in America helps the process of mutual understanding among America's religious groups," said Salam Al-Marayati, director of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. "It helps combat a number of stereotypes about Muslims because we are now putting a human face on Islam."

Although attendance at the **White House** celebration will be limited to about 100 people, the impact of the event is being felt throughout the Muslim community. The celebration is not only helping to redefine the way other Americans view Muslims, but the way Muslims in the United States view themselves.



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Aside from the political and social implications of the **White House** event, "people are excited by the fact that something that means so much to us is now being shared with other people," said Al-Marayati's wife, Laila, who heads the Muslim Women's League.

Ramadan is the holiest of months for Muslims, the month the Koran was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad. During this time the faithful fast and restrain from other sensual pleasures from dawn until sunset each day.

The month is a time of reflection, constraint and compassion for the poor. The **Eid** al-Fitr, a joyous three-day event, marks the successful completion of the month. It is a time when families gather for prayers, meals and renewing their bonds. "It's a form of rejuvenation and spiritual recharging that gets you through the rest of the year," said Laila Al-Marayati.

The **White House** celebration of the **Eid** comes after years of efforts to educate the public about Islam and a specific effort to encourage recognition of Ramadan, said Khaled Saffouri of the American Muslim Council, a Washington-based educational organization.

"The Bush administration was not receptive," Saffouri said. "They would not return phone calls or answer letters."

After Saffouri organized an observance in the U.S. Senate in 1996 and personally invited the first lady, her aides asked him to organize a similar event at the **White House**.

Although hastily planned, that first observance left a deep impression on the Muslim community in the United States and abroad, Saffouri said. The event was widely discussed within Muslim communities nationwide and covered in the foreign press.

"This was the first time the Muslim community was acknowledged by any administration," Saffouri said. "Muslims felt someone invited them, included them and appreciated them for the first time. It was a historic event for Muslims worldwide."

"Because of political conflicts in other countries, lots of Muslims feel that America is anti-Muslim or hates Muslims. This helped clarify things and showed this is not true."

The hope, Saffouri and others said, is that the **White House** observance will ultimately lead to an increased understanding. They said they hope that the celebration will help Muslims in the United States create their own identity, rather than be defined by the images and actions of Muslims abroad--particularly those involved in conflicts with the United States.

In the past, Muslims have been faced "with a false choice between being American and being Muslim," Salam Al-Marayati said. "We're trying to forge the identity of being an American Muslim."

At Los Angeles' Bilal Islamic Center when Muslims break the fast each evening, the community is invited. The homeless, hungry and curious enjoy a free meal, and hear the prayers and teachings each night of Ramadan.



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"The non-Muslims look forward to Ramadan because they know there will be an increased focus on charity," said Najee Ali of Project Islamic Hope. "They're aware of Muslims and Ramadan. They might not understand all the dynamics, but they're aware."

Like other Muslims, Ali intensifies his charitable efforts during Ramadan, delivering food and clothes to the homeless, visiting hospitals and speaking to at-risk youths. He remembers when he was one of those youths.

"Before I converted to Islam I was tearing up the community," he said.

Hasan said there are an estimated 8 million to 12 million Muslims in the United States and that 2 million to 3 million are African Americans.

"The influence of this group reaches far beyond the number," Hasan said. "They have families, mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers."

"At first, when we accepted Islam, our parents used to oppose us," Hasan said. "When they couldn't shake us from our new beliefs, they would ask the grandfathers and grandmothers to come talk sense into our heads. If they failed, they would ask aunts and uncles, cousins."

But with time families began to realize that, far from being a threat to family stability, the convert's behavior had changed for the better, he said. The Koran teaches respect for parents and other tenets that are "right in accord with what I was taught by my parents in the South," Hasan said.

And the lessons of Ramadan, with its emphasis on self-control and the power of the human will, can benefit anyone, he said.

"If we can abstain from things that are necessary for a healthy life--food, water, relations with husbands and wives--there's nothing we cannot control," Hasan said. "We can certainly break any habits we may have that may not be good for us."

The Muslim presence in the American political arena has increased, contributing to the nation's awareness of Islam. Muslims from Southern California have participated in a **White House** conference on hate crimes and sit on an advisory board on religious freedom abroad. In 1995 Laila Marayati was named to the official U.S. delegation to the U.N. International Conference on Women in Beijing. In 1996 the first lady told the Muslim Women's League in Los Angeles that Islam is "a guide and pillar of stability for many of our people."

Salam Al-Marayati said organizations in Southern California's Muslim community have "established a strong record of commitment to the national interests of the United States, along with a really deep-seated allegiance to our faith."

At the **White House** on Thursday, Hassan Hathout of the Islamic Center of Southern California will deliver a sermon that expresses "our gratitude that at long last Muslims are being accepted and welcomed as a normal and integral part of American society . . . and that there is a place in the **White House** and the heart of America for all American citizens, irrespective of religious, ethnic or



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color background."

GRAPHIC: PHOTO: After sundown, Najee Ali breaks his Ramadan fast and eats a meal at the Bilal Islamic Center on the patio outside mosque. PHOTOGRAPHER: GENARO MOLINA / Los Angeles Times PHOTO: Muslims say evening prayer, top, in observance of Ramadan. Haaziq Muhammad, left, hands out plates of food to people who were invited to the Islamic center during Ramadan celebration, which calls for a focus on charity. PHOTOGRAPHER: GENARO MOLINA / Los Angeles Times PHOTO: Milestone for Muslims Invitation for Los Angeles Groups to Celebrate the End of Ramadan at **White House** Shows Growing Acceptance of Islam PHOTOGRAPHER: GENARO MOLINA / Los Angeles Times

LANGUAGE: English

LOAD-DATE: February 28, 1998



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FOCUS - 12 OF 16 STORIES

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January 30, 1998, Friday

SECTION: NEWS; Ed. 1,2,3,4,6,7,8; Pg. A-17

LENGTH: 422 words

HEADLINE: Clinton appeals to Iran for cultural exchanges;
Makes overture during holiday video message ; BLOOMBERG NEWS SERVICE

BODY:

President Clinton called for cultural exchanges with Iran, saying more exchanges would help restore good relations between Iran and the United States.

"To the people of Iran, I would like to say that the United States regrets the estrangement between our two nations," Clinton said in videotaped remarks meant to mark **Eid** al-Fitr, the holiday that marks the end of the Ramadan fasting month.

"Iran is an important country with a rich and ancient cultural heritage of which Iranians are justifiably proud. We have real differences with some Iranian policies, but I believe they are not insurmountable," he said.

Earlier this month, **White House** spokesman Mike McCurry said the United States was considering easing restrictions on travel to and from Iran.

Clinton's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright are looking at options for thawing the chill between Tehran and Washington in the wake of the election of Iranian President Mohammad Khatami last May.

The Iranian leader, a moderate Shiite Muslim cleric who won a landslide victory over a hard-line religious candidate, has been making overtures to the United States.

Recently, in a 45-minute interview on Cable News Network, Khatami suggested that the United States and Iran ought to step up cultural exchanges. Right now visa restrictions make such exchanges all but impossible.

A thaw in Iran-U.S. relations is in the air. Clinton said last month that he would like to begin a dialogue with Iran, and he's been encouraged by the moderate leader's comments. The United States cut ties with Iran in 1979 after Iranian revolutionaries took Americans hostage and held them for more than a year.

The break in U.S.-Iranian relations has cost U.S. companies billions of dollars in lost sales. For example, Allied Signal Inc. used to supply replacement parts for Boeing 747s owned by Iran. U.S. sanctions forbid such sales now.



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In 1995, Clinton barred Conoco Inc., a unit of Delaware chemical maker DuPont Co., from developing Iran's South Pars field project in the Persian Gulf.

Total SA of France announced in September that it had taken up the project and would spend \$2 billion developing the field alongside Russia's Gazprom and Malaysia's Petroliam Nasional.

Clinton addressed the message to the Iranian people, rather than the government. He said, "I hope that we have more exchanges between our peoples and that the day will soon come when we can enjoy once again good relations with Iran."

GRAPHIC: 1 PHOTO; ASSOCIATED PRESS; Ramadan ending: As workers rolled up carpets, worshipers in Dubai left after the prayer observing **Eid-al-Fitr**, the holiday that marks the end of Ramadan. President Clinton sent a goodwill video message to Iran for the holiday.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

LOAD-DATE: January 31, 1998



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February 25, 1996, Sunday, FINAL EDITION

SECTION: VIEWPOINTS, Pg. 10F

LENGTH: 731 words

HEADLINE: MUSLIMS WIN RECOGNITION AT WHITE HOUSE

BYLINE: Hillary Rodham Clinton

BODY:

This week, for the first time in American history, the White House hosted a celebration of an Islamic holiday. It was long overdue.

To mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the most important Muslim holiday of the year, I welcomed 200 men, women and children (and even some sleeping babies) from across the country to the Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building.

There were prayers and speeches, and a feast of traditional dishes, including meat dumplings, pita bread, hummus (a spicy garbanzo bean dip), baba ganoush (an eggplant dip), tabbouleh (a salad of parsley, tomatoes and cracked wheat) and pastries.

Like 1 billion other Muslims around the world, these American Muslims had just finished fasting from sunrise until sundown for 30 days. Ramadan is a special time for families, when parents and their children practice self-discipline and deny themselves food and water to gain greater compassion for the poor.

As I shared in this historic celebration of joy, love and family life, I couldn't help thinking of how we, as a society, too often mischaracterize Islam and those who adhere to its teachings.

Think back to the Oklahoma City bombing, and some of the reactions that immediately followed, and you'll know what I'm getting at. Moments after the explosion, Muslims were publicly presumed to have been responsible. While police searched for suspects, many Muslims in this country felt afraid to leave their homes. Mosques and Islamic centers received threatening phone calls.

While news stories about Muslims often focus on extremists like those responsible for the World Trade Center bombing and other acts of terrorism, it's not fair to apply such a negative stereotype to all Muslims.

The reality is that the vast majority of the estimated 4 million Muslims in the United States are loyal citizens whose daily lives revolve around work, family and community.

People who find spiritual guidance and sustenance in Islam represent all

walks of American life. They range from well-known celebrities like Houston Rockets star Hakeem Olajuwon to community leaders like Dr. Laila Al-Marayati, a California physician who served on the U.S. delegation to the Women's Conference in Beijing, to Chaplain Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, the first Islamic chaplain in the U.S. Army, who offered a prayer at the White House ceremony.

They are also children like Marwa Al-Khairo, a Girl Scout and aspiring doctor who loves books by Judy Blume and Mark Twain. She, her two younger brothers and her Iraqi-born parents joined many other families at the White House celebration.

Standing on the dais, her green felt hat barely reaching above the microphone, she offered the most poignant reminder of why a celebration of Ramadan at the White House was as important to all Americans as to those in the room.

"Only in America, people from different parts of the world can come together and become one community," she said. "I am proud to be an American. And I am proud to be an American Muslim," she added, before ending her speech with a plug for her mosque's baklava, a favorite pastry.

Marwa's life is no different in many respects from that of other American sixth-graders. But listening to her, I thought about how hopeful it is for our country that children here can grow up like Marwa, fluent not only in the ways of America but also in their own cultural and religious traditions.

I am grateful that my own daughter has had the chance to study Islamic history in high school, certainly not an option for my generation. In fact, Chelsea was so enthusiastic about the course that when we traveled to South Asia together last year, she provided a running commentary on everything we did and saw.

Learning about all of the cultures that have enriched our society also enhances our understanding of what it means to be American. We are, after all, a nation of immigrants and diverse religious beliefs.

In the past, children of other faiths have had the opportunity to observe their major holidays at the White House. There have been parties at Christmas and a ceremony to light the menorah at the beginning of Hanukkah. And thousands of children come to the annual Easter egg roll on the South Lawn in the spring.

Now, I hope, Marwa and other Muslim children will also feel that their religion has a place in their president's house.

LANGUAGE: ENGLISH

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HEADLINE: MUSLIMS WIN RECOGNITION AT WHITE HOUSE

BYLINE: Hillary Rodham Clinton

BODY:

This week, for the first time in American history, the White House hosted a celebration of an Islamic holiday. It was long overdue.

To mark the end of the holy month of Ramadan, the most important Muslim holiday of the year, I welcomed 200 men, women and children (and even some sleeping babies) from across the country to the Indian Treaty Room of the Old Executive Office Building.

There were prayers and speeches, and a feast of traditional dishes, including meat dumplings, pita bread, hummus (a spicy garbanzo bean dip), baba ganoush (an eggplant dip), tabbouleh (a salad of parsley, tomatoes and cracked wheat) and pastries.

Like 1 billion other Muslims around the world, these American Muslims had just finished fasting from sunrise until sundown for 30 days. Ramadan is a special time for families, when parents and their children practice self-discipline and deny themselves food and water to gain greater compassion for the poor.

As I shared in this historic celebration of joy, love and family life, I couldn't help thinking of how we, as a society, too often mischaracterize Islam and those who adhere to its teachings.

Think back to the Oklahoma City bombing, and some of the reactions that immediately followed, and you'll know what I'm getting at. Moments after the explosion, Muslims were publicly presumed to have been responsible. While police searched for suspects, many Muslims in this country felt afraid to leave their homes. Mosques and Islamic centers received threatening phone calls.

While news stories about Muslims often focus on extremists like those responsible for the World Trade Center bombing and other acts of terrorism, it's not fair to apply such a negative stereotype to all Muslims.

The reality is that the vast majority of the estimated 4 million Muslims in the United States are loyal citizens whose daily lives revolve around work, family and community.

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walks of American life. They range from well-known celebrities like Houston Rockets star Hakeem Olajuwon to community leaders like Dr. Laila Al-Marayati, a California physician who served on the U.S. delegation to the Women's Conference in Beijing, to Chaplain Abdul-Rasheed Muhammad, the first Islamic chaplain in the U.S. Army, who offered a prayer at the White House ceremony.

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