

—American Muslims Study Israeli-Palestinian Conflict... **CWSC Issues White Paper to Leading U.S. Think Tanks and Ambassadors**

NATIONAL -- A new and progressive faith-based think tank, known as the Community Wide Shuraa Conference is preparing its Office of International relations to lead a delegation to the Middle East and into the heartland of conflict. Why? Its leaders say, to deliver and discuss the organization's recently released white paper, *A Road to Peace: Recognizing our Human Rights First*.

After two-years of intensive work, CWSC has made a monumental move and some say its work has great merit given that the think tank is part of a national U.S. Intelligentsia comprised primarily of American Muslims of African-American descent.

Many observers say American Muslims, especially African-American Muslims may bring a special sensitivity and faith-based pragmatism to the table of both national and international dialogue. The American Muslims in CWSC takes its contemporary leadership influence from humanitarian and faith leader, the late Imam Wallace D. Mohammed, who led the his Community to orthodox Islam and the sunnah of Prophet Muhammed away from the racial nationalism of the former Black Muslims. Wallace Mohammed was the first Muslim in history to lead the U.S. Senate in prayer.

“As Muslim descendants of ex-slaves and builders of Islamic Community Life in America, we're very disturbed by the state of affairs not only in Palestine and Israel, but in other areas of the world, some with significant Muslim populations and others with very few Muslims,” says _____ Director of CWSC's Office of International Relations.

While we are a minority religious community in America, our country affords the wonderful opportunity to leverage our voice in an atmosphere of freedom and respect for the group intellect and we're going to use those resources to help remake our world.

Part of our goal is to reverse the un-Islamic trends we see happening not only in some Muslim dominated areas, but in other parts of the world where the human spirit is being oppressed. Our focus is both domestic and abroad.

For example in 2014, the Shuraa Conference held its national town hall in Missouri and could not have predicted that the eyes of the world would be intensely focused right where we we're brainstorming on how to remake our world better for all people. We took Ferguson, Missouri as a sign that we have to stay the course and begin prioritizing our intellectual resources to effect change. We have and continue to take steps also to address domestic concerns such as poverty, lack of education, or other social injustices.

What we realize is that the effects on community life for all of us as global citizens are not so neatly separated now into domestic and international boundaries. We live in a time now more than ever where Dr. King's words ring true: "a threat to justice somewhere is a threat to justice anywhere."

So we see our growing role on both the national and international scenes as our Muslim responsibility and as our citizenship responsibility...for peace, that is both the inner peace of the soul and outer peace for personal and physical security, is the message of Al-Islam. We have an obligation to speak up and defend those who are oppressing others, even if the oppressors call themselves Muslims.

We're going to draw upon our history as a people once deprived of our human rights and who have overcome the hate that hate produced to say to all sides in the decades old conflict between Palestinians and Israelis, that there is redemption in seeing first the Adam in each of us before we see the Christian, Muslim, Jew or Hindu, or other religious influence. Before we exert our rights to property, let's first instill the right of all to human dignity. And we are witnesses that such clarity on human rights leads to a redemption that can help us more clearly see our social, economic, political and moral rights. We know, because we have seen redemption in and by America."

Can the American Muslim Community and its think tank do what state governments, teams of diplomatic bureaucrats and billions of dollars have not been able to accomplish?

When the question is posed to _____, **she** responds, "Well, we have had one member of our community travel abroad and upon the strength and character of his person, he was able to free American citizens held hostage...that's our brother Muhammad Ali, the three-time heavy weight champion who is from the same Muslim community we are. The Champ's was a personality-based leadership. Now we have thousands of Muslims working within a national intelligentsia to remake the world—that's a greater institutional leadership, and we should expect greater things to come.

I will say the Creator is the One Who makes the way and as Americans, we are known predominately as people of faith. So I would say have faith...The Creator has the whole world in His hands; our responsibility is to do our best and leave the results to Him."

"WHAT IF..."

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