

In the Name of Allah, the Beneficent, the Merciful

A brief report on the visit of

HIS EMINENCE SHAYKH AMJAD RIYADH

From the office of Grand Ayatullah Sayyid al-Sistani in Najaf

To the United States of America

11-27 Shawwal, 1436

July 28 – August 13, 2015



I.M.A.M.

IMAM MAHDI ASSOCIATION OF MARJAEYA

INTRODUCTION:

This report, in line with achieving the objectives of I.M.A.M., is an attempt to strengthen the relationship between the religious authority and the believers in the West by arranging targeted reciprocal visits between convoys of Western believers (including community and center leaders) and supreme religious authorities and scholars from the Islamic Seminary of Najaf. In addition, this project aims to coordinate and prepare focused meetings leaders and centers of religious studies and the general believing public in many cities and states in America and Canada. We named this project "The East-West Bridge Project¹" in accordance with the holy verse [Quran 49: 13]:



"O people, we have created you from male and female, and made you peoples and tribes to know each other."

I.M.A.M. has hosted several scholars and teachers at the Islamic Seminaries, as well as representatives of religious authorities, to achieve these objectives and was successful with the help of almighty Allah. Today, I.M.A.M. was honored to host a great guest from the holy city of Najaf, respected Shaykh Amjad Riyadh, from the office of His Eminence Grand Ayatullah Sayyid al-Sistani in Najaf.

The visit of our respected guest included a series of public meetings with believers in several cities and states. These meetings included well-known personalities, religious scholars, and people of different cultures and backgrounds. Additionally, he participated in a series of special activities related to his mission and the nature of work. The visit is detailed chronologically below:



¹ Click here to read more about this project.

VISITS AND MEETINGS

Here is the list of meetings, visits, and activities of his eminence sorted by the date.



	Date	Location	Event
1	Tuesday, July 28, 2015	JFK Airport, New York	Arriving at JFK and welcoming the guest by a few members from I.M.A.M.
2	Tuesday, July 28, 2015	al-Khoei Foundation, New York	Open meeting with community members from different socio-ethnic backgrounds, and Q & A
3	Wednesday, July 29, 2015	Guest residence, New York	The first meeting and discussion between Shaykh Amjad and Sayyid Kashmiri; included visit's details and the overall situation and work
4	Wednesday, July 29, 2015	Saint 'Egidio Community, New York	Hosting a meeting and dialogue on the cooperation between Catholic Christians and Shia
5	Wednesday, July 29, 2015	al-Khoei Foundation, New York	A tour of the al-Iman School and a meeting with Shaykh Fadhil al-Sahlani
6	Thursday, July 30, 2015	The United Nations, New York	A tour of the building, corridors, and United Nations halls, and a view of aspects of humanitarian, charitable, and heritage work
7	Thursday, July 30, 2015	Meeting with Dr. Hamid al-Bayyati, New Jersey	Dialogue on the details of the possibility of working as a charity with the United Nations and the importance of being in New York
8	Thursday, July 30, 2015	National Museum of the American Indian, New York	A tour of the museum to see the history of countries, tribes, nations, and ancient landmarks
9	Thursday, July 30, 2015	al-Ghadir Islamic Center, New Jersey	Public and open session with Shia community living in the suburbs of New Jersey
10	Thursday, July 30, 2015	Travel	The guest flew to Detroit, Michigan.
11	Friday, July 31, 2015	Sayyid M. B. Kashmiri's residence, Dearborn, MI	A lunch invitation

12	Friday, July 31, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	A tour of the divisions of I.M.A.M. and meeting with staff
13	Friday, July 31, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	A special meeting with the staff of I.M.A.M. along with questions and answers
14	Friday, July 31, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	A meeting with some Hawzah students who have returned from the Seminary of Najaf
15	Saturday, August 1, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	A meeting with a legal and accounting auditor regarding al-Ayn Foundation
16	Saturday, August 1, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	A private meeting and dialogues with Sayyid Kashmiri
17	Saturday, August 1, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	A detailed meeting with I.M.A.M.'s executive committee
18	Saturday, August 1, 2015	Hosted by Haj Hadi al-Baghdadi, Dearborn, MI	A meeting with leading Iraqi figures
19	Sunday, August 2, 2015	Touring the city of Detroit, MI	Explored the city and its Islamic presence (e.g. Islamic center, foundations)
20	Sunday, August 2, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	Special meeting with the senior official in the Department of Technology
21	Sunday, August 2, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	An honorary dinner, a meeting with some of the believers, and a dialogue on the overall situation in Iraq, religious authority, orphans, and other services
22	Monday, August 3, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	Tour of the large building and completion of outstanding topics
23	Monday, August 3, 2015	Host of Sayyid Sattar Almusawi, Dearborn, MI	Honorary lunch with several regional dignitaries in the region.
24	Monday, August 3, 2015	I.M.A.M., Elite Hall, Dearborn, MI	A general meeting with the youth with simultaneous translation from Arabic to English and vice versa with questions and answers
25	Monday, August 3, 2015	Sayyid Kashmiri residence	A meeting with a candidate for managing al-Ayn Foundation
26	Tuesday, August 4, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn	Organizing al-Ayn Foundation
27	Tuesday, August 4, 2015	Host of Shaykh Borair al-Badrawi, Dearborn Heights, MI	A Special lunch many others

28	Tuesday, August 4, 2015	I.M.A.M., Elite Hall, Dearborn, MI	Meeting with the public and delivering a speech, followed by questions and answers
29	Tuesday, August 4, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	A meeting to organize the documents of al-Ayn Foundation
30	Tuesday, August 4, 2015	A personal residence, Dearborn, MI	An evening gathering with youth and others, as well as a dialogue
31	Wednesday, August 5, 2015	I.M.A.M. Summer Camp, Dearborn, MI	Tour of the Henry Ford Historic District to view the activities of I.M.A.M.'s Summer Camp for children
32	Wednesday, August 5, 2015	Host of the Author Bahaa Alkhakani, Dearborn, MI	Honorary lunch with many local and regional dignitaries.
33	Wednesday, August 5, 2015	I.M.A.M., Elite Hall, Dearborn, MI	A general meeting with sisters supported by al- Hawraa Institute students. A speech and a Q & A session
34	Wednesday, August 5, 2015	I.M.A.M., Dearborn, MI	The first formal meeting of the Board of Trustees of al- Ain Foundation and the final layouts on the papers and signatures
35	Wednesday, August 5, 2015	Haj Solagh residence, Dearborn, MI	A meeting with youth and an open discussion
36	Thursday, August 6, 2015	Travel	Traveled by car to Chicago Illinois
37	Thursday, August 6, 2015	Masoom Islamic Center, Chicago, IL	A meeting with believers of the Indian and Pakistani community and Q &A
38	Friday, August 7, 2015	IEC Husseini Center, Chicago, IL	A meeting with Sayyid Mehboob Mahdi Abidi and a tour of the center with its new improvements
39	Friday, August 7, 2015	Hadi School, Chicago. IL	A tour of the school and meeting with its officials
40	Friday, August 7, 2015	Hosted by Sayyid Nayer Rizvi, Chicago, IL	An honorary lunch that included meeting local clergy and community figures
41	Friday, August 7, 2015	Bait-ul-Ilm Islamic Center, Chicago, IL	Meeting with Sayyid Suleiman Hassan and several students and discussing Hawzah studies
42	Friday, August 7, 2015	Bait-ul-Ilm Islamic Center, Chicago, IL	Open session and meeting with believers of different ethnic backgrounds
43	Saturday, August 8, 2015	Conference of Shia Muslim Scholars, Chicago	Participation in the 15th annual conference of the Council of Shia Scholars in North America

44	Saturday, August 8, 2015	Ahlul Bayt Islamic Center, Chicago, IL	Meeting with Iraqi believers, a speech, and Q & A
45	Sunday, August 9, 2015	Residence of the guest, Chicago, IL	A special meeting regarding some competencies and work proposals about activities of al-Ayn Foundation
46	Monday, August 10, 2015	Travel	Traveling to the Washington D.C. area
47	Monday, August 10, 2015	Hosted by Haj Mustafa Hassan, Virginia	An honorary dinner for the guest and his companions
48	Tuesday, August 11, 2015	Library of Congress, Washington D.C.	A tour of the world-famous library
49	Tuesday, August 11, 2015	United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Washington, D.C.	A tour of the exhibition sections to learn about the set-up and how they affected the visitors
50	Tuesday, August 11, 2015	Muslim Community Center for Thaqaalayn, Bowie, MD	A public session and discussion with the native American-born Shia community
51	Wednesday, August 12, 2015	Catholic University Church, Washington, D.C.	Exploring one of the largest churches of The Catholic University and its heritage and diversity
52	Wednesday, August 12, 2015	Guest residence, Washington, D.C.	A meeting with several activists, and a discussion about the religious authorities, general conditions, and acquaintance
53	Thursday, August 13, 2015	Guest departure	Leaving for Iraq



PARTNERSHIPS AND ACTIVITIES:

1) al-Ayn Foundation – United States branch:

The visit of our honored and respected guest concluded with a very important achievement which was the main purpose of his visit. The achievement was the establishment of al-Ayn Foundation for Social Welfare, the United States branch supplement the other branches of the Foundation in other Western countries and attract benefactors to support service projects of the Foundation, which involve helping the orphans of victims of ISIS and other terrorism, which have exceeded thirty thousand thus far. The al-Ayn Foundation also sponsors and serves more than 25,000 families displaced from areas where the terrorist group is committing acts of corruption, murder, displacement, and humiliation.



The efforts of His Excellency, and with the full support of I.M.A.M., formed a trusteeship, established administrators for this branch of al-Ayn Foundation and arranged for meeting all the legal requirements for the project to begin work immediately.

This achievement was stressed repeatedly by the guest during his speeches, mentioning stationing of its headquarters and offices in I.M.A.M.'s building and working side-by-side with My Orphans, which has been performing service for years. The guest mentioned that the grand opening will take place during a later trip with the help of the Almighty. May Allah support the believers of this institution to continue providing for and serving the orphans of the family of Muhammad (peace be upon him and his progeny).

2) I.M.A.M.

The respected guest conducted his work at I.M.A.M. throughout his stay in Dearborn, a suburb of Detroit, Michigan. The Foundation was honored to host the respected guest who is a hardworking scholar who lives near the Commander of the Faithful (p), and near the heart of the Sharia Center in Najaf, where the office of the highest religious authority is located. His time visiting here was full of programs, activities, dialogues and meetings, which focused on many topics and issues that we summarize in the following points:



- Visit to all the departments of I.M.A.M. to see their roles and responsibilities and meet the officials of each department separately to understand the nature of their work.
- A general meeting with the staff of the Foundation and volunteers with an in-depth dialogue about the importance and seriousness of working in the field of religious authority, noting its qualities and the message it carries to humanity. A dialogue followed the meeting and dealt with many aspects of the religious authority, its role, valuing its efforts, the nature and conditions of work in the West, and what the needs of believers are.



- During the annual executive meeting attended by five members from several states, a special meeting was held with the guest, attended by the Assistant Secretary-General, which provided a pilot survey of five important areas in the United States about Shiites and how the Foundation is associated with believers and centers. as Also covered was the journey of the Foundation in terms of achievements and failures over the past decade. Finally, he discussed projects, hopes, and expectations of the highest religious authority for care and attention to them. The presentation and discussion received the guest's admiration and praise for what he appreciated, and he added valuable remarks and guidance.
- Discussing the support of the Foundation and the nature of its relationship and direct support from the office of Holy Najaf in terms of the great challenges it faces regarding consideration and customary issues
- A special meeting with several religious personalities, stressing the role of the religious authority, the role of leaders in serving the community, and the need for cooperation and coordination on major issues, especially the issue of the sufferings of the people of Iraq and that region. After the meeting was a dialogue with details about al-Ayn Foundation and its other humanitarian services provided for orphans and refugees.
- Viewing several of the Foundation's projects and dialogue with some departmental officials and their representatives, as well as visiting and inspecting the summer camp, which about ninety children attended, including twenty-five orphans sponsored by the Foundation through the project "My Orphans".



I have visited and seen many institutions in Iraq, Lebanon, and several European countries, and I did not find an institution with such a far-reaching vision, organization, division of roles, accuracy, and work with such a broad horizon, like what I found in I.M.A.M. What I saw is not reflected properly in the office of Najaf; thus, I will carry this complete picture back and inform the office of supreme religious authority.

Shaykh Amjad Riyadh

3) The 15th Annual Conference of Shia Scholars²

The Shia Muslim Scholars in North America held its 15th annual conference under the banner "Cooperation and Collaboration: It's a necessity now, not an option," in Chicago, IL on Saturday and Sunday, August 8-9, 2015, corresponding to 23-24, Shawwal, 1436 A.H. Many religious scholars, imams, Islamic and cultural center directors, university and academic institution professors,



² For more details about the council see the appendix 2

and religious and cultural activists from various cities and states in North America attended the conference.

The conference participants discussed the current conditions that afflict Muslims and believers and the many trials and deviations necessitating the intervention of righteous and insightful people to limit the spread of such issues and alert people about them. Our distinguished guest Shaykh Amjed Riyadh honored and enriched the conference this year through his words, interventions, and commentaries, which were valuable for guiding the dialogues of the Council, since he reflected the viewpoint of working under the umbrella of the supreme religious authority.



There is no such thing as an oral agency for the office of the supreme religious authority. Rather, it is necessary to demand a written authorization issued by His Eminence, al-Sayyid al-Sistani or his office in Najaf.

Shaykh Amjad Riyadh

Our guest's words and interventions focused on many issues, the most important of which were, as follows:

- To convey the regards and prayers of His Eminence Sayyid al-Sistani, the supreme religious authority, and some of his fatherly directives.
- To focus on what the region and Iraq are going through in terms of risks that require vigilance, caution, solidarity, and alignment behind the supreme religious authority.
- To stress the importance and role of scholars and preachers to make more efforts, cooperate, and exhibit solidarity to create an environment and atmosphere that preserve the religious identity and noble traditions of believers and their succeeding generations in the West.
- To devote a full seminar to the importance of preaching, preparing preachers, and sending young people to study the knowledge of Ahl al-Bayt (pbut) as well as what the Najm-ul-Aiamah school and soon the Alawite school (God willing) can provide in Najaf to establish and build a new generation of promising students.
- To devote a full seminar to the work, activity, and fruits of Al Ain Foundation for Social Care, concerning service to orphans and displaced persons, and discuss ways of cooperation and engagement with the Foundation, especially with its new branch in the United States.



4) Populace of Believers:

I.M.A.M. coordinates with the imams of Islamic centers and their organizers to hold meetings from time to time when they consider the circumstances to be right for the believers to meet with them and receive information on what is important to them in matters of religion, culture and traditions. Based on the respected guest's time, agenda and travel plans, I.M.A.M. coordinated with several Islamic centers in several states, and based on circumstances and priorities, to hold public meetings with the populace to observe the cultural diversity of the pluralistic Shiite community in the United States.



The guest spoke about many topics and directives that inspired the believers and intensified their enthusiasm and their interest in interacting with the message of the supreme religious authority. Most of the speech and subsequent questions and answers included many topics, the most important of which were the following:

- The regards of His Eminence Sayyid al-Sistani and his care for the believers in the West
- Building the believers' ideological, jurisprudential, and moral character in the era of occultation, to preserve religious identity and noble traditions
- The need to link to the supreme religious authority and follow its directives and instructions, especially in the current circumstances experienced by the Islamic world in a difficult existential conflict
- The importance of positive interaction and engagement with other citizens with whom the believers live and to do their best to embody the Islamic message in its best form and then try do their best to work in positions in which they provide better services to society and believers and preserve the reputation of Islam
- The importance of the role of youth in persevering in their work and working to attain the highest levels and the highest positions
- The need to address the media intensively to correct rumors and to combat the use of language such "militias" to describe the defense volunteers, who responded to the ruling of the supreme religious authority to support the Iraqi army and defend their people from ISIS. Such rumors mislead and distort the achievements, reputation, and efforts of those heroes who responded to the call of the religious authority to defend Iraq. Without their efforts, Iraq and the region would have been under the control of ISIL and its terrorism.
- The guest explained the position of the office of the supreme religious authority in Najaf on claims of oral authorizations to disburse and manage religious



dues (e.g., khums) and closed the door on those who want to exploit the situation, stressing the lack of any validity to the idea of oral authorization of His Eminence Sayyid al-Sistani. In addition, the countries of the West, including America and Canada fall under the representation of Sayyid Murtadha al-Kashmiri exclusively. This came after participants raised questions in three major meetings and side events.

5) Interfaith dialogue and strengthening of the Catholic-Shiite relationship:

The holy city of Najaf which is the headquarters of the Islamic Seminary and the location of the grave of the Commander of the Faithful, the successor of the Prophet (pbuh&hp), Imam Ali (p), has hosted many visiting delegations from different religions, sects and schools of thought. The most recent was the delegation of the Saint Edgido Community Catholic Group from Rome, who were honored to meet with the supreme religious authority of the Shia, Sayyid al-Sistani. His Eminence's directives, statements and words (which the media echoed) overwhelmed the guests from Saint Edgido.



Subsequently, after the Catholic group in New York learned from I.M.A.M. of our respected guest's presence, they expressed a desire to host Shaykh Amjad Riyadh to strengthen relations with religious leaders and research centers. They held a friendly and frank meeting attended by many religious scholars and academicians at Seton Hall University, during which they learned about aspects of the Seminary of Najaf and its spiritual role in the world as well as other aspects of the Saint Edgido Community group. In addition, there was an emphasis on the importance of Muslim-Christian meetings in general to serve humanitarian interests.



6) United Nations Headquarters:

The purpose of the United Nations visit was to establish cooperation and coordination with the former representative of Iraq at the United Nations, to visit the United Nations at its new location in New York, and to identify areas and patterns of humanitarian and charitable work in its institutions and systems, in particular the nature of the work of civil society, humanitarian, and charitable organizations. In addition, the guest took a tour of the corridors of the building and saw aspects of the history, achievements, and importance of this global institution.



RECURRING COMMENTS AND REFLECTIONS

Recurring comments and reflections at the community and public level

Comments, words of gratitude, and side conversations of many believers referred to the following:

- There is a growing concern by the Hawzah for the believers in the West, even extending to the level of visits and meetings.
- Visits of scholars of the seminary and representatives of religious authorities are practical presences of those institutions on the ground which strengthen their followers and their position.
- Satisfaction with direct communication with the figures of the seminary and of the religious authority offices to convey their concerns and any negative feelings or reservations about their existing situation without any barriers or impediments.
- Increasing requests from other states to host the guest, which indicates the importance of the visit and the thirst of believers for such meetings and visits.
- Ideal cooperation and integration between operating institutions such as al-Ayn Foundation and MY Orphan Care Foundation.
- The acceptance of I.M.A.M. as a powerful support for the religious authority in the West to serve the believers, especially during the guest's remarks in public meetings where there were repeated questions about what rulings were on rumors, provocations, and distortions originating from parties that do not like the presence of the religious authority in the West.



Recurring comments and reflections at the leadership level:

The following were observations from the comments of leadership figures:

- These types of visits and meetings demonstrate a growing Shiite presence that serves knowledge, relations, and understanding of others, and needs further development and strengthening to bear fruit.
- The Islamic seminary is interested in openness and bridging the intellectual and scientific relationship between it and the centers of science, religion, and research in the world.
- Understanding pluralism in Shi'a jurisprudence and schools and that Shiite needs include those of all types and groups of people.



- The existence of the Islamic seminary and its presence in our local communities is very important and should be part of a systematic program that invests in solving intellectual problems related to the knowledge, philosophies, and schools of thought prevailing in the West and their impact on new generations and on the world.

Impressions concerning the respected guest

Some of the distinguishing features of the guest observed during his activities, were as follows:

- Patience, cheerfulness, high morals, expressing love, affection, and flexibility, yet decisive when necessary.
- Along with his special title, prestige, and strength of his intellectual proposals, he exhibited charm and simplicity, which had a positive impact on all his meetings. So, the public listened to him carefully and attentively.
- Embodiment of the role of the religious authority in his paternity and care for trends, tendencies, and, desires of people.
- Exhibiting a social tendency for meetings and dialogues, not limited to small or private meetings, which increased public interest in him.
- Bearing the work pressure and enduring the schedule of meetings and activities and adapting to the conditions of continued international engagement, concerns, and commitments.
- His speeches and lively dialogues touched upon contemporary issues and current events, to convey to the listener what the most important interest of the community is at the global level.



FOLLOW UP:

The guest promised to arrange another visit to complete his mission and we ask God to make it soon. I.M.A.M. hopes once again to provide whatever it can to facilitate everything needed for the guest to make his mission a success, and to (God willing) follow up on several proposals, including the following:

- Setting the date of a subsequent visit to arrange a tour of several other states and the official opening of the al-Ayn Foundation with the help of the Almighty.
- Issuing a joint declaration by the al-Ayn Foundation in Iraq and My Orphans Foundation in America and publishing it for the public, to raise the level of cooperation to open a branch of the al-Ayn Foundation in America due to the urgent need of the situation in Iraq. In addition, to continue cooperation and keep the project of My Orphans on the same level of services provided in Iraq, through al-Ayn extended to other countries such as Afghanistan, Lebanon, and America.
- The possibility of establishing a permanent exhibition on the tragedy of orphans of terrorist operations in Iraq and documenting and disseminating this exhibition to the world.
- The establishment of cultural courses during the vacations of institutions, colleges, and universities to attract young people and invite them to religious tourism trips in cooperation and coordination with the school of Najm al- 'Ayimmah and under the supervision of the Office of the Supreme Religious Reference. This should be a nucleus for the selection of those who would later study at the Islamic seminary.
- Attempting to strengthen the position of I.M.A.M. to take on its desired role in accordance with directions of the office of the highest religious authority in Najaf



EPILOGUE:

We prepared and produced this report to record the efforts of scholars and workers, to achieve the maximum benefit from visits and meetings, and to use what we learned to improve future programs and visits, with the permission of the Almighty. We ask God to make this work successful, blessed, and acceptable.

Dearborn, Michigan, United States.

22 Dhu al-Qadah 1436 AH.

September 6, 2015 AD.

APPENDIX (1):

About the respected guest

Shaykh Amjad is the son of Haj Riyadh, the son of the late Abbas al-Sa'di, known as al-Baghdadi. Born in Baghdad, Iraq, 1972 .



- **Academic achievement:**

- He studied at the College of Engineering at the University of Technology in Baghdad, and later left it to devote himself to religious studies in the Seminary in Najaf.
- Joined the Seminary in Najaf in 1993 and completed all the required courses in the Islamic seminary.
- Researcher in the fields of jurisprudence and principles of jurisprudence on a higher level, also known as Bahth al-Kharij-Fiqh.
- Attended a full course of principles of jurisprudence for ten years under his eminence Grand Ayatullah Sayyid Muhammad Saeed al-Hakim.
- Attended the higher studies course of jurisprudence (Bahth al-Kharij -Usool) under Ayatullah Sayyid Muhammad Ridha al-Sistani for years.
- Attended the higher studies course of principles of jurisprudence (Bahth al-Kharij) under Ayatullah Sayyid Muhammad Baqir al-Sistani for years and has stopped for now.

- **His scholarly works:**

- Reports of jurisprudence Kharij level of Sayyid M. Ridha al-Sistani.
- Reports of principles of jurisprudence Kharij level of M. Baqir al-Sistani.
- A research on the binding proof of contentment. (published in a scholarly magazine).
- Researchers in jurisprudence and principles of jurisprudence (not printed).

- **Roles and tasks:**

- One of the most prominent workers in the office of the religious authority of His Eminence Grand Ayatullah Sayyid al-Sistani.
- General supervisor of al-Ayn Social Welfare Foundation in Kadhimiya.
- Director of Najm al- 'Aimmah School and Al-Alawi School of the Islamic Seminary of Najaf.
- Other responsibilities belonging to the office.

APPENDIX (2):

A summary of the Council of Shia Muslim scholars of North America:

- The Council of Scholars and preachers is one of the important projects of I.M.A.M. at the regional level, and many scholars, imams of centers or mosques, preachers, and professors of religious studies attend its annual meetings regularly.
- It began in the mid-1990s through the efforts of the late Sayyid Muhammad Zaki al-Suwaij, Shaykh Fadhel al-Sahlani, and others. However, in its early days, it faced some difficulties that hindered its progress, and it stopped after three conferences. The journey of the conferences began again in 2004 with I.M.A.M. and continues to this day.
- North American believers hold high hopes for the Council because of the names, titles, connections, and expectations of its religious and spiritual leaders. However, there are still major challenges that face the council, and it needs much support to carry out its tasks.



Some of its achievements:

- Crescent Committee: emerged in 2007, taking on the responsibility of investigating the beginnings of lunar months to help believers in determining the beginning of religious months after confusion that led to loss of religious events on regional and national levels. The committee has achieved success through accuracy, objectivity, and continuity throughout this period and is still working hard on continuous monthly sightings throughout the year. The statements and announcements of the Crescent Committee are clear in social and religious circles and have a significant impact on large segments of the believing public in the United States and Canada.
- Annual Conference: The Council holds an annual conference in which scholars, preachers, and interested people exchange their experiences, discuss challenges and difficulties, and try to study and develop solutions. The annual conference also forms a warm meeting where participants recollect memories of their brotherhood and past meetings, thus enhancing love

and brotherhood and dissolving some of the staleness caused by distance and the absence of meetings throughout the year.

- The status of the Council: The most important members and founders belong to the supreme religious authority and have status, respect, and value in the social circles of Islam and even among non-Muslims. This puts the Council in a position of respect. It is also considered one of the most important features of Shiite society and helps to insure its success.
- Washington Charter: The Council's latest achievement is the signing of a charter to form a committee of senior Shiite and Sunni institutions to address any possible violence or confrontations that may occur between Muslims in the United States and Canada. Many Sunni dignitaries visited the Council's conference and received a high-level delegation of Shiite scholars at a public festival. The document, which was widely supported, was signed and announced.



APPENDIX (3):

Pictures



Visiting I.M.A.M.'s offices



Front office



Religious Services Office



Religious Services Office



IT and Communication Office



Operation Office



Accounting Office



Accounting Office



Media Office



Human Resources Office



Volunteer Affairs



Public Relationship Affairs



My Orphans Office



My Orphans Office



Meeting with I.M.A.M.'s staff



Meeting with I.M.A.M.'s Executive Committee



Meeting with youth at I.M.A.M.



Meeting with youth at I.M.A.M.



Meeting with youth at I.M.A.M.



Meeting with dignitaries, Dearborn



I.M.A.M.'s Summer camp



I.M.A.M.'s Summer camp



Discussion at I.M.A.M.'s Summer camp



Youth night, Detroit



Meeting with al-Hawra' Edu. Institute



Meeting with community, Dearborn



Visiting IEC Hussaini, Chicago



Visiting Masoom Center, Chicago



Visiting Ahlul-Bayt Center, Kalamazoo, MI



Visiting Masoom Center, Chicago



Visiting IEC Hussaini, Chicago



Visiting al-Ghadeer Center, Chicago



Meeting students at Bait-ul-Elm, Chicago



Visiting IEC Hussaini, Chicago



Visiting al-Khoei Center, New York



Visiting al-Khoei Center, New York



Visiting Bait-ul-ilm Center, Chicago



Meeting St. Edgido members, New York



Visiting al-Hadi School, Chicago



Tour at al-Hadi School, Chicago



Visiting IEC Hussaini, Chicago



Visiting al-Hadi School, Chicago



Visiting Muslim Community Center for
Thaqalayn, Bowie, MD



Visiting Ahlul-Bait Center, Chicago



Catholic University, DC



Tour at Catholic Cathedral, DC



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



The Council of Shia Scholars - Conference



National Museum of the American Indian,
New York



The Library of Congress



The United Nations



The United Nations



Holocaust Museum, DC



Code of Hammurabi, UN, New York

مؤسسة الإمام المهدي المرصية

ينشره معهد الحوار زينت التعليمي التابع لمؤسسة إمام،
بعمرة مائة لإخوان الكريمة للحضور والمشاركة في لقاء خاص
مع

فضيلة العلامة الشيخ أمجد رياض

أسئلة الحوزة العلمية في النجف الأشرف الذي يحمل أهمية إنسانية
كبرى من الرجوع المبني إلى السيرة السنيانية، دمج طلة
في رعاية أبنائنا صحابا الإرهاب

مقرر: أبحاث سماحة آية الله العظمى محمد رضا الموسوي
المطرف العام على مؤسسة الأمن الإسلامي الاجتماعي
المشرف العام على مؤسسة الحج الإسلامية السنوية في الحوزة

اللقاء ٥ آب ٢٠١٥
من الساعة ٦ - ٨ عصر
مؤسسة إمام، قاعة الصفاة
٨٣٥ شارع ميسن، غرب ديريورن

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THE LIAISON OFFICE OF GRAND AYATOLLAH AL-SISTANI
PRESENTS

**YOUTH SESSION
TACKLING THE CONCERNS
OF MUSLIM YOUTH IN THE WEST**
AN OPEN SESSION WITH A PROFESSOR OF THE HAWZAH OF NAJAF

The Honorable 'Allamah
SHAYKH AMJED RIYADH

A professor in the seminary of the Holy City of Najaf, working for the
office of Grand Ayatollah Sayyid Sibtani in Iraq. His positions and
responsibilities include:

- Editor of the lessons of Ayatollah Sayyid Mohammad Kida
al-Sistani and Ayatollah Sayyid Mohammad Baqir al-Sistani.
- General Supervisor of Najaf al-Ayemah Seminary in the
Holy City of Najaf for gifted foreign students.

The Honorable 'Allamah Shaykh Amjed Riyadh was given the responsibility
of carrying out an important relation from His Eminence Grand Ayatollah
Sayyid Al-Sibtani regarding contemporary international issues and
addressing Worldwide issues facing Muslims today and our responsibility.

Monday, August 3, 2015 6 pm - 8 pm
I.M.A.M. Atrium Building | Elite Hall
835 Mason St, Dearborn, MI 48124
Moderator: Shaykh Aous Asfar

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PRESENTS

**COMMUNITY & WORLDWIDE
ISSUES FACING MUSLIMS TODAY**
AN OPEN SESSION WITH A DISTINGUISHED SCHOLAR FROM NAJAF

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- General Supervisor of al-Ahliyya Social Centre translation.

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تقدم

مجتمعنا المسلم والتحديات المالية المصافة
في حوار مفتوح

فضيلة العلامة الشيخ أمجد رياض

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