

# Fwd: URGENT ACTION: Engaging With Muslims vs. Fitna on Capitol Hill!

1 message

Jihad F. Saleh, MPA <jihad@alumni.princeton.edu>

Tue, Feb 24, 2009 at 9:35 AM

To: "Jihad F. Saleh" <jihad@alumni.princeton.edu>

Urgent! Please have your organization and/or networks take action on this immediately.

A Luta Continua,

Jihad

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Jihad F. Saleh, MPA** <jihad@alumni.princeton.edu>

Date: Tue, Feb 24, 2009 at 11:03 AM

Subject: URGENT ACTION: Engaging With Muslims vs. Fitna on Capitol Hill!

## URGENT ACTION REQUIRED!!!

Salaams All,

Good news first: Senator John Kerry, the Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, is holding a hearing this Thursday, Feb. 26th, billed as "Engaging with Muslim Communities Around the World". This is expected to be the beginning of a series of hearings held by Chairman Kerry to foster improvement between the US and Muslim World. The **Congressional Muslim Staffers Association** has assisted Senator Kerry's Committee staff in identifying Muslim Americans to testify in the hearings. The hearings are open to the public. Click the following link for Hearing details:

[Senator Kerry's Foreign Relations Hearing](#)

Bad news: Also on Thursday, Senator Kyl of Arizona will be hosting a viewing of the controversial short film [Fitna](#) in the Senate, open only to Congressional Members and staffers. The film's maker, Dutch Parliamentarian Geert Wilders, has been invited to attend the event. Click the following link for an article on the film event:

[Senator Kyl Film Viewing \(AP Article\)](#)

Unfortunately, the Senate viewing of Fitna will potentially gain media attention greater than the coverage of Chairman Kerry's hearing on Engaging the Muslim World. We need to take action to make sure that Chairman Kerry's initiative gains the proper attention, helping to promote the meaningful dialog and constructive work that is taking place between America's elected leaders and Muslim American leadership.

## ACTION ITEMS:

**1. Contact Senator Kyl:** Have your organization send a message to Senator Kyl stating your concern and disappointment in his endorsement of the film Fitna. Ask him to publicly endorse Senator Kerry's hearing on *Engaging the Muslim World* instead of hosting the Fitna viewing.

**Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ)**

730 Hart Senate HOB

Washington, DC 20510

(202) 224-4521

(202) 224-2207 fax

[kyl.senate.gov/contact.cfm](http://kyl.senate.gov/contact.cfm)

**2. Thank Senator Kerry:** Send a letter or fax to Chairman Kerry's Foreign Relations Committee thanking him for his leadership and commitment to fostering positive and productive relations with the Muslim American community and Muslim World. State your support for the series of hearing and endorse his Committee staff's working with the **Congressional Muslim Staffers Association** to identify moderate, mainstream Muslim scholars and leaders to testify in his hearings.

**Chairman John Kerry**

**U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations**

Dirksen Senate Office Building

Washington, DC 20510

202.224.4651

202.228.3612 fax

Ms. Fatema Sumar, Chairman Kerry's Committee staffer managing these hearings can be contacted at [Fatema\\_Sumar@foreign.senate.gov](mailto:Fatema_Sumar@foreign.senate.gov).

**3. Mobilize Constituents:** Send out an *Action Alert* to your organizational listserv requesting your supporters to call or fax Senator Kyl's office. Have them state the same concern and request as in Action #1. Also have them contact Chairman Kerry's Committee and thank him for beginning a series of hearings on engaging Muslim communities around the world. If you have contacts with Muslim leaders, organizations, and centers in Arizona, please notify them right away and have them call their Senator's office immediately to express their concern. Request them to put out press releases to Arizona's major media outlets.

**4. Notify Media:** Send out a advisory to media outlets requesting them to give full attention and coverage of Senator Kerry's hearing on Engaging the Muslim World. Also state why Senator Kyl's viewing of the film *Fitna* will not contribute to a constructive engagement and partnership between the US and mainstream, moderate Muslim communities and leadership.

A Luta Continua,

Jihad

**CC:**

**Kareem Shora & Abed Ayoub**, *American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee*

**Salam Al-Marayati & Edina Lekovic**, *Muslim Public Affairs Council*

**Dr. Sayyid Syeed & Dr. Ingrid Mattson**, *Islamic Society of North America*

**Nihad Awad & Corey Saylor**, *Council of American Islamic Relations*

**Ibrahim Ramey & Aishah Schwartz**, *Muslim American Society*

**Imam Syed Naqvi & Rahat Husain**, *Islamic Information Center*

**Daisy Khan**, *American Society for Muslim Advancement*

**Eboo Patel**, *Interfaith Youth Core*

**Dalia Mogahed**, *Gallup Poll*

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