

Contributors

Mohammed Abu-Nimer is an expert on Arab-Jewish dialogue and peace work in conflict zone areas. He has worked extensively in the Middle East, Sri Lanka, and Mindanao. His project captures the general and specific lessons, dynamics, and challenges associated with conducting evaluations of peacebuilding projects in conflict areas. He draws from the hundreds of training and dialogue workshops and the many evaluation teams he has led in a host of conflict areas across the globe. Abu-Nimer is the director of the Peacebuilding and Development Institute at American University. He is also the director and founder of Salam: Peacebuilding and Justice Institute and has been at American University's School of International Service since 1997. Abu-Nimer is a recipient of the 2005 Morton Deutsch Award from the Society for the Study of Peace, Conflict, and Violence and a co-founder of the Journal of Peacebuilding and Development. He holds a Ph.D. in conflict resolution from George Mason University.

Asma Afsaruddin is professor of Arabic and Islamic Studies at Indiana University. Her fields of specialization are the religious and political thought of Islam, Qur'an and hadith studies, Islamic intellectual history, and gender studies. She is the author of *The First Muslims: History and Memory, Excellence and Precedence: Medieval Islamic Discourse on Legitimate Leadership*, the editor of *Hermeneutics and Honor: Negotiation of Female "Public" Space in Islamic/ate Societies* and co-editor (with Mathias Zahniser) of *Humanism, Culture, and Language in the Near East : Essays in Honor of Georg Krotkoff*. She has also written over fifty research articles, book chapters, and encyclopedia entries on various aspects of Islamic thought and has lectured widely in this country and abroad. Afsaruddin is currently serving on the editorial boards of the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Medieval Islamic Civilization* and the *Bulletin of the Middle East Studies Association*. She was a visiting scholar at the Centre for Islamic Studies at the School

for Oriental and African Studies, London, UK, and was previously a fellow at the American Research Center of Egypt in Cairo and the American Research Institute of Turkey in Istanbul.

Waleed El-Ansary is Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, Department of Religious Studies at the University of South Carolina. He received his Ph.D. in the Human Sciences with concentration in Islamic Studies from George Washington University and his M.A. in Economics from the University of Maryland. He is an advisor to the Grand Mufti of Egypt as well as the Canadian Military Chaplains and is involved in interfaith dialog. His research focuses on the relationship between religion, science, and economics, and his publications include *The Economics of Terrorism: How bin Laden is Changing the Rules of the Game*.

Reza Eslami-Somea is an Associate Professor of Human Rights and International Law at Shahid Beheshti University's Faculty of Law in Tehran, Iran. He earned his first doctorate in Iran and his second from McGill University and Universite de Montreal, Canada, and has written on human rights, Islamic law, public freedoms and rights of women and minorities. He regularly attends conferences and seminars on democracy and peace education in the US, Europe and the Middle East, and organizes workshops for NGOs and community-based organizations in the region. He also teaches at United Nations University for Peace in Costa Rica, and is the UNDP consultant on human rights treaty reporting in Afghanistan. He is affiliated with the UNESCO Chair for Human Rights, Peace and Democracy at Shahid Beheshti University.

Qamar-ul Huda is trained in Islamic studies and Comparative Religion, and is the Senior Program Officer in the Religion and Peacemaking Program at the United States Institute of Peace. Dr. Huda's area of interest is in Islamic theology, intellectual history, ethics, and peacemaking. He examines comparative ethics, the language of violence, conflict resolution and non-violence in Islam. His research is on comparative Sunni-Shi'ite interpretations of social justice, ethics, dialogue, and the ways in which the notion of justice is appropriated. Dr. Huda has examined the production of religious knowledge, self-identity, the diversity of religious practices and peacemaking in *Striving for Divine Union: Spiritual Exercises for Subrawardi Sufis* (RoutledgeCurzon). He has written on Islamic peacemaking, mystical treatises, inter-faith dialogue, and contemporary West and Islamic relations. He co-authored with David Smock a USIP Special Report entitled *Islamic Peacemaking Since 9/11*. He served as the Special Issue Editor of *The Muslim*

World on “Qawwali: Poetry, Performance and Politics.” Dr. Huda earned his doctorate in Islamic intellectual history from University of California, Los Angeles, his Bachelor of Arts degree from Colgate University in International Relations and Comparative Religion, and studied in Islamic seminaries.

Asna Husin was born and raised in Aceh, Indonesia, and graduated in teaching Arabic from *Ar-Raniry State Institute for Islamic Studies* (IAIN). She received two Fulbright Scholarships for her MA in Middle Eastern studies from Harvard University (1992), and her PhD in religious studies from Columbia University (1998). After completing her doctorate, she was a visiting fellow at the *Center for the Study of Human Rights* at Columbia University. Dr. Husin directed the first Women’s Program (1998–2000) for the World Conference on Religion and Peace (WCRP) in New York City. Dr. Husin returned to Aceh and established the *Peace Education Program* (*Program Pendidikan Damia – PPD*) as an independent affiliate of the NGO *Nonviolence International*. Now in its eighth year, PPD has developed curriculum for high schools throughout Aceh, currently reaching two hundred forty seven schools, and an Ulama Peace Manual being implemented in forty Islamic boarding schools. She also teaches at *Ar-Raniry State Institute for Islamic Studies*, serves on Aceh’s *Provincial Commission on Education*, and has advised Aceh’s Governor on educational and social issues. Asna has published articles on peace education, human rights and gender issues, and has presented papers at international conferences in Sidney, New Delhi, Oslo, Vancouver, Cologne and Rabat.

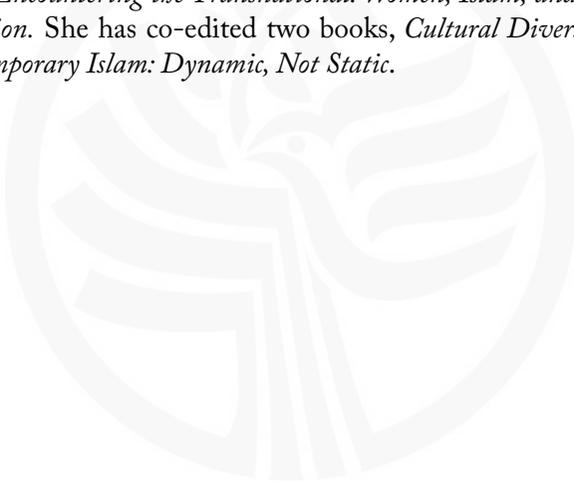
Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana is Assistant Professor at American University. She is the Associate Director and founding member of The Salam Institute for Peace and Justice, a non-profit organization for research, education, and practice in Washington, DC. The Salam Institute work on issues related to conflict resolution, nonviolence, and development with a focus on bridging differences between Muslim and non-Muslim communities. Dr. Kadayifci-Orellana is the author *Standing On an Isthmus: Islamic Narratives of War and Peace in the Palestinian Territories* and co-author of *Anthology on Islam and Peace and Conflict Resolution in Islam: Precept and Practice*. She has also written various book chapters and journal articles on mediation and peace building, religion and conflict resolution, Islamic approaches to war and peace, and Islam and nonviolence. She has facilitated dialogues and conflict resolution workshops between Israelis and Palestinians, conducted Islamic conflict resolution training workshops to imams and Muslim youth leaders in the US. She received her Ph.D. from American University and

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Ibrahim Kalin received his Ph.D. from the George Washington University, Washington DC. As a broadly trained scholar of Islamic studies, he teaches a number of courses on Islamic history and culture at Georgetown University. His field of concentration is post-Avicennan Islamic philosophy with research interests in Ottoman intellectual history, interfaith relations, and comparative philosophy. Dr. Kalin has published widely on Islamic philosophy and the relations between Islam and the West. His book *Knowledge in Later Islamic Philosophy: Mulla Sadra on Existence, Intellect and Intuition* is forthcoming and being published by Oxford University Press. His book *Islam and the West* (published in Turkish) has won the 2007 Writers Association of Turkey award for best book. He has also co-authored a major study on the Turkish perceptions of the West. He has contributed to several encyclopedias including *MacMillan Encyclopedia of Philosophy 2nd Edition*, *Encyclopedia of Religion 2nd Edition*, *Biographical Encyclopedia of Islamic Philosophy* and the *Oxford Encyclopedia of the Islamic World*. He is a faculty member at Georgetown University and is the founding-director of the SETA Foundation for Political, Economic and Social Research based in Ankara, Turkey. Dr. Kalin is among the signatories of the *Common Word* (www.acommonword.com), a major initiative to improve Muslim-Christian relations.

Zeki Saritoprak is the Nursi Chair in Islamic Studies at John Carroll University. He holds a Ph.D. in Islamic Theology from the University of Marmara, Turkey. He earned his Master's degree in Islamic Theology and Philosophy, and his B.A. in Divinity from the same university. He studied Arabic language for several years in Cairo while doing research for his dissertation in Islamic Theology, entitled *The Antichrist (al-Dajjal)*. He is the Founder and former President of the Rumi Forum for Interfaith Dialogue in Washington, D.C. Dr. Saritoprak is the author of several books and academic articles in Turkish, English, and Arabic. He has served as guest editor for Special Issues of *The Muslim World* on Fethullah Gülen and *Islam and Christian-Muslim Relations* on Bediüzzaman Said Nursi. His next book, *Islam and the Eschatological Imagination: Jesus, the Mahdi and al-Dajjal*, is forthcoming from the University Press of Florida. He has courses at Harran University (Turkey), Georgetown University, the Catholic University of America, and Berry College in Rome, Georgia.

Meena Sharify-Funk received her doctorate from American University and is currently an Assistant Professor for the Religion and Culture Department at Wilfrid Laurier University in Canada. Her area of expertise is in Islamic studies with a focus on contemporary Muslim thought and identity. She is interested in modern Muslim engagement with classical debates in Islamic intellectual history as well as with recent developments in Western thought and culture. Dr. Sharify-Funk has written and presented a number of articles and papers on women and Islam, Islamic hermeneutics, and the role of cultural and religious factors in peacemaking. She recently published *Encountering the Transnational: Women, Islam, and the Politics of Interpretation*. She has co-edited two books, *Cultural Diversity and Islam* and *Contemporary Islam: Dynamic, Not Static*.



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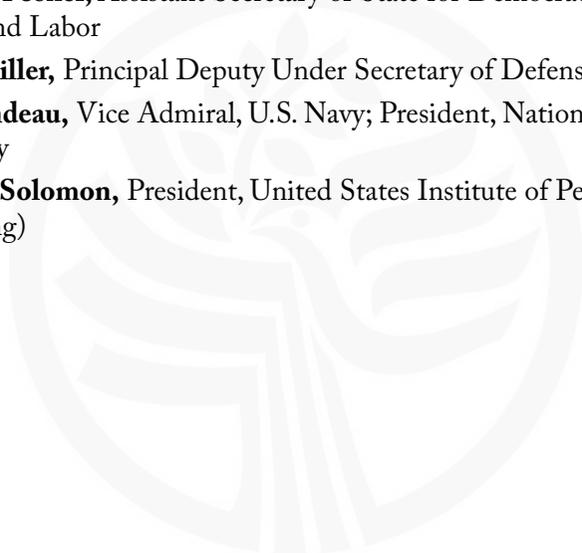
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