



Department of State
Ninewa Provincial Reconstruction Team



Mosul, Iraq

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PRT Reconciliation Iftar Helps Foster Understanding

Mosul, Iraq – September 3, 2009 – In the spirit of advancing reconciliation and mutual understanding in a divided province, PRT Ninewa sponsored a highly successful “Reconciliation Iftar”. Approximately 100 political, military, business, ethnic, and non-government Ninewa leaders and guests attended.

The event was held on FOB Diamondback. A local clergy member opened the evening with a recitation from the holy Koran, followed by President Obama’s poignant recorded Ramadan greeting and several speeches.

During his comments to guests, PRT Team Leader, W. Patrick Murphy, urged mutual respect, expressing confidence that through dialogue and compromise “fewer differences would linger.” Provincial Council Deputy Chair Deldar Abdullah Zebari elaborated that Ninewa belonged to all its peoples, “Arab and Kurd; Muslim and Christian; Yezidi and Turkoman.” He also urged the participants to work towards peace in Ninewa.

Throughout the evening, the PRT also featured a running slideshow on Muslims in America. The evening was a rousing success, bringing together diverse leaders and groups and helping to foster mutual understanding in a region characterized by conflict and deep suspicion.



(L) PRT Public Diplomacy Officer, Faris Asad, speaks to an Iftar guest; (R) PRT Team Leader addresses the audience. The event brought together 100+ guests from all of Ninewa’s diverse ethnic groups together for an evening themed on peace and reconciliation.

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