



مركز دراسات الإسلام و الديمقراطية
CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF ISLAM & DEMOCRACY

May 14, 1999

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Dear Colleagues:

We are excited to announce the creation of a new non-profit organization dedicated to the study of Islam & Democracy, and to invite you to become involved with our new center.


The issue of the relationship between Islam and democracy is certainly one of the most critical issues facing the Muslim world today and deserves greater scrutiny and reflections. The future peace, stability, and development of 55 mainly Muslim countries, with more than 1.2 billion people, depends on how well political institutions and governments in the Muslim world are able to reflect the needs and aspirations of their citizens. Unfortunately, just as much as Islam is misunderstood in the West, the concepts and principles of a democratic system of government are misunderstood in most of the Islamic world. Hence the need for greater education and understanding on both sides of the fence.

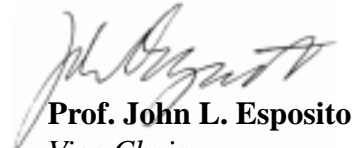
We invite you to join the Center for the Study of Islam & Democracy (CSID) at whatever level you feel comfortable with: a Member, a Fellow, a Founding Member, or a Lifetime Member. Please note that CSID is a membership-based organization, so we will need your help and support in order to succeed*.

If you have any questions about CSID, do not hesitate to contact one of our board members, or our Executive Director, Dr. Radwan A. Masmoudi, at your convenience. We also invite you to visit the new CSID web site at:

www.islam-democracy.org

We look forward to hearing from you and to welcoming you as an associate of CSID.


Prof. Ali A. Mazrui
Chair


Prof. John L. Esposito
Vice-Chair

* Please fill-out and return the 'membership form' envelope inserted in the newsletter.