

'Shameless': Muslim Reform Advocate Criticizes CAIR's Planned Iftar Protest Outside White House:

"The protest event dubbed "NOT Trump's iftar" is being organized by CAIR and several other groups."

LOS ANGELES, CA, UNITED STATES, June 6, 2018 /EINPresswire.com/ -- "Shameless, if not bizarrely against the spirit of Ramadan."

That was American Islamic Forum for Democracy president M. Zuhdi Jasser's reaction to plans by the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) to hold a protest outside the White House Wednesday, as President Trump hosts an official iftar inside.

Last year CAIR expressed dismay when the president, in a break with the custom of his predecessors over the past two decades, did not hold a Ramadan fast-breaking iftar meal at the White House.

This year Trump is hosting one, and CAIR is joining allies in holding a "counter" event at nearby Lafayette Square.

Organizers said on a Facebook page advertising the event that Trump was trying to "make nice" by hosting an iftar after having "attacked" Muslims as a candidate and as president.



"President Trump has attacked Muslims since the beginning of his campaign and codified his Islamophobia with the Muslim Bans," they wrote, using CAIR's preferred term for the president's travel executive orders targeting countries determined by the administration to pose terrorism concerns.

"Now he wants to make nice and host an iftar dinner after skipping the tradition last year. Join us this [year] for a counter iftar held simultaneously outside the White House to say not in our name."

The protest event dubbed "NOT Trump's iftar" is being organized by CAIR and several other groups, including the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Islamic Circle of North America's council for social justice, according to the event page.

"Muslims and people of all faiths and no faith are welcome to join," it says. "Listen to people in the vanguard of the fight against Islamophobia, then join Muslims and allies as we break our fast and make sure the administration knows we support our Muslim siblings and neighbors. Food and beverages will be provided."

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders confirmed Tuesday that Trump will host an iftar dinner on Wednesday night, with around 30-40 attendees.

Aurora DeRose Aurora DeRose 310-396-6090 email us here

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