



CONGRESSMAN JOHN B. LARSON
CONNECTICUT'S 1ST

August 5, 2005

Salaam Alaikum and Good afternoon,

Please accept my apologies for being unable to join you for this important gathering. Although I cannot attend in person, I am here with you in spirit. I stand together with my fellow Americans from the Pakistani-American community in condemning the dealers of hatred and brutality who perpetrate their crimes under the cover of Allah. These so-called jihadists, who live only to kill, trade on a willful corruption of one of the world's great religions. But theirs is an unholy war, born of tyranny, not faith. Their hate is indiscriminate, targeting non-Muslims and Muslims alike. As we know, however, terrorism is committed under many banners.

While our vigilance cannot flag against the agents of malice, we must continue to guard against those who would unfairly stigmatize all of Islam. We must resist the ugly stirrings of prejudice in the battle against terror. Hatred and intolerance are not defeated by more hatred and intolerance, but they do risk blinding us to our friends and allies throughout the Islamic world – friendships and alliances we must strengthen. It is in America's solidarity, in our common love of freedom and humanity best displayed in our diversity, that we find our greatest strength and the source of resiliency that will lead our nation to triumph against terrorism.