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The Islamic Society of North America

October 20, 2021

Plainfield, Indiana

ISNA's Appointment of Imam Saffet Abid Catovic

The Islamic Society of North America (ISNA) is pleased to announce the appointment of Imam Saffet Abid Catovic to head its Washington, DC Office for Interfaith, Community Alliances, and Government Relations. Brother Saffet brings with him a Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) and years of interfaith and community development experience.

Brother Saffet is no stranger to ISNA and its various activities and programs over the years. He was closely involved in the Muslim Youth of North America (MYNA), and more recently was a founding member of ISNA's Green Initiatives Committee (previously known as the Green Mosque Task Force).

He is well known both here in America as well as abroad for his many years of youth development, Islamic scouting, community organizing, and serving in senior diplomatic positions for his ancestral Bosnia and Herzegovina during the genocidal campaign of the 90s. As an educator and activist, he has served in many leadership roles at the local, regional, national and international levels, especially in the areas of environmental and interfaith work. Imam Saffet has an MBA and worked in healthcare as a corporate budget director. He also served for many years as the Muslim Chaplain at Drew University where he received his MA in Religion and Society and is currently completing his Doctorate of Ministry.

"We are thrilled to welcome Imam Saffet back into the ISNA family in his new leadership role as he revives, revitalizes, and expands ISNA's important work and various programs in the Nation's Capital", said ISNA's Executive Director, Basharat Saleem.

Former ISNA President and the Founding Director of the ISNA Office for Interfaith and Community Alliances (IOICA), Dr. Syeed M. Syed, remarked, "I have known Saffet step by step going up the ladder for decades to represent us all on the highest mountain of power and service, the Capitol Hill and in New York at the UN headquarters. Brought up in the cradle of Islamic mission in America, nursed with a strong unwavering commitment to deliver the message in America, he has the experience, passion, and readiness to assume his new leadership role and we are looking forward to supporting him throughout his important work - Congratulations ISNA!"

"It is indeed a great honor and blessing to be joining the ISNA Executive Director's dedicated and accomplished team. I am excited and looking forward to continuing to honor the proud legacy of ISNA's pioneers through realizing the vision and mission of ISNA in my work in DC. I hope to expand and deepen ISNA's community engagement within the Muslim communities and cooperation with the National Muslim organizations in the DMV metropolitan area as we work together toward developing a more unified, robust and inclusive civic engagement. I am looking forward to strengthening our existing alliances and programs with our Inter-faith partners, and to draw the circle wider to include many others as we work on the critical issues of racial, economic, socio-political, and environmental justice, as well as immigrant and human rights", said Imam Saffet A. Catovic regarding his appointment.

IOICA office can be reached via email (info_ioica@isna.net).