

## IAP and ADC Held a Fundraising Dinner in Annandale, Va

In solidarity with victims of the massacre at the Mosque of Ibrahim, the Islamic Association for Palestine and the American-Anti Discrimination Committee held a fund raising dinner/Iftar on March 5, 1994 in Annandale, Va. ADC President Albert Mokhiber, speaking at the Iftar, condemned the massacre and said that the ADC is launching a strong campaign to persuade the U.S. administration to pressure Israel into disarming the settlers in the Occupied Territories. Dr. Muhammad Siam, former president of the Islamic University of Gaza urged the Islamic and Arabic community in the U.S. to support the Intifada morally and financially and asked P.L.O. Chairman Arafat to stop the "humiliating negotiations with Israel." Dr. Siam called for the Jihad against Israeli troops in the Occupied Territories.

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Al-Nashra

### Israel or Palestine?

I am writing about a matter that I noted with great concern while reading the fine ICNA publication *The Message*. I have noted in recent issues that in the "International" section you have been running news briefs under the heading "Israel." This came as a surprise to me. We know and respect ICNA's positions on the problem of Palestine very well and we have always known ICNA to be a strong, thoughtful voice for truth and the struggle of Muslims everywhere. As you undoubtedly know, Palestine has been an Islamic Waqf

since the time of Umar (as) and it continues to be an Islamic Waqf. Muslim organizations have refrained from using the word "Israel" to refer to the land of Palestine because they do not wish to indicate any sort of legitimacy for a state created by seizing Muslim lands by force and expanded by succeeding wars of aggression.

I hope that the use of "Israel" in your news briefs was the result of an oversight and not an intentional change of policy. Furthermore, I hope that you will return to the terminology "Occupied Palestine" to refer to that Holy Land.

Nihad Awad (IAP)  
Dallas, TX

*No change in our policy. No oversight either. The Message recognizes the historical position of Palestine. It has been an Islamic Waqf. We believe these holy lands were not handed over to Israel as a trust; she occupied them by force.*

*It is important to note that in our news items, we never used the word "Israel" to refer to the land of Palestine. We always used this word as a reference, in its real perspective. We referred to people, politics and problems by using the term "Israel." We never meant to legitimize Israel's illegitimate and inhuman attitude of seizing Muslim lands by force.*

*The Message is striving to become a real alternative Muslim Media. We produce this magazine in America and we want to communicate with Americans more effectively. Israel is the term and the political reality, which Americans are familiar with. Whether we use it or not, it cannot be denied. It would be senseless and counterproductive even, to ignore it as a "protest."*

*It is much better to report honestly the oppression carried out under this term ("Israel"). That story will not only tell the tale, but convince all thoughtful persons the world over of the abuse and injustice visited the Palestinian people and all Muslims under this name. Or so, we believe.*

*Muslim organizations, according to their policy, affiliation, and agenda may use or refrain from using any term. But The Message has always tried to be a reliable, credible and impartial source of information for both Muslims and non-Muslims. ICNA as an organization, has never influenced The Message to become its organizational mouth-piece.*

*To make the magazine the tool of communication and Da'wah, we must not be a party. We thank you for your input and for highlighting the matter. — Ed*