

STATEMENT FROM WORLD & ISLAM STUDIES ENTERPRISE (WISE)

World & Islam Studies Enterprise (WISE) is a research center established in 1990 to promote scholarly research and dialogue between Muslim and Western scholars. It publishes a scholarly journal that includes writings of scores of nationally and internationally known scholars in the areas of political science, philosophy, sociology, economics, religious studies and other social science disciplines. It also co-sponsors seminars and round-table discussions in areas of interest to Western scholars in the fields of Islam and the Middle East.

In 1992 and 1993, two round-table discussions, co-sponsored with the University of South Florida's Middle East Committee, were held and attended by many respected scholars in the field. The two guest speakers were Dr. Hasan Turabi of Sudan and Dr. Khurshid Ahmad of Pakistan. The full texts of both events are available at WISE. Both events were praised and appreciated by the scholars who attended the meetings.

WISE is an independent institution dedicated to open intellectual activities. WISE has never served nor does it lend itself to serve as a political advocacy group. Several intellectual and well respected scholars have been involved with WISE since its inception. Dr. Abdullah who is a recognized researcher and a scholar on Islamic history and economics was affiliated with WISE under its first director, and in 1992 became its director until 1994. He was also a co-editor of its scholarly periodical and handled academic relations with scholars and universities.

Last June Dr. Abdullah left WISE for a research tour in the Middle East in order to write a book on Islamic Banking, as well as to tend to his sick father who later passed away. We also understand that Dr. Abdullah had two offers from Malaysia and Europe to teach and research in the area of Islamic economics and banking. WISE denies any knowledge of Dr. Abdullah's association or affiliation with any political group or agency in the Middle East.

To all scholars and friends of WISE, we assure you that WISE will continue to be a scholarly and serious research center dedicated to a better understanding and debate between Muslim and Western intellectuals and scholars, and a contributor to a better dialogue among world civilizations.

U.S. District Court  
Middle District of Florida  
GOVERNMENT EXHIBIT  
518  
Exhibit No.: