

## LOCAL MUSLIMS TO SEEK TSUNAMI AID DURING EID

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Local Muslim leaders will urge the faithful to donate generously to the Tsunami Relief Fund when Muslims gather at 10 am. Friday at the Islamic Center, corner of Kanawha Turnpike and Valley Drive in South Charleston, to celebrate the holiday of Eid ul-Adha.

Muslims across America will celebrate the holiday Eid ul-Adha (pronounced eed-al-ODD-ha), or "festival of the sacrifice," with congregational prayers.

The Eid rehearsal of Takbir will start at 10 a.m. followed by the Eid prayer at 10:30 and a sermon by Imam Mohammad Jamal Daoudi. A luncheon follows.

When Muslims mark the end of the annual pilgrimage to Mecca, or Hajj, the central figure in their religious celebrations will be the Prophet Abraham, not, as one might suppose, the Prophet Muhammad.

Each year, Muslims around the world conclude their Hajj with Eid ul-Adha. The holiday celebrates the end of the pilgrimage, which is expected to include some 10,000 Americans among the two to three million pilgrims. It also commemorates Abraham's willingness to sacrifice his son at God's command. According to Daoudi, Muslims believe it was Ishmael that God asked to be sacrificed. Muslims trace their origins to Ishmael.

The holiday is celebrated with prayers, small gifts for children, the distribution of meat to the needy, and social gatherings. During this holiday, Muslims exchange the greeting "Eid mubarak" (eed-moo-BAR-ak) or "blessed Eid."

*For information, please call Imam Daoudi at 744-1031 or 541-4999 or Nadeem Khan at 545-9873.*