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## HARVARD'S KENNEDY SCHOOL TO HOST EVENT ON MUSLIM AMERICAN CIVIC AND POLITICAL INTEGRATION

### *Thought Leaders to Discuss Recommendations of Chicago Council on Global Affairs Task Force Report*

**Cambridge, Mass., – October 15, 2007** – Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government today announced it will host the interactive lunch event "A Dialogue on Strengthening America: The Civic and Political Integration of Muslim America." Held on Wednesday, October 17, the event is co-sponsored by Kennedy School research centers the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation, the Dubai Initiative, the Middle East Initiative and the Islam and the West program at Harvard. Session speakers will discuss the recommendations and findings made in the June 2007 independent task force report "Strengthening America," released by the Chicago Council of Global Affairs.

The "Strengthening America," report is a nonpartisan assessment of the current Muslim American experience and the relative silence of this population in today's American dialogue on public policy and national security issues. The report presents six recommendations for better engaging Muslim Americans and capitalizing on their potential contributions to civic life and policy discourse.

**Date:** Wednesday, October 17, 2007

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET

**Speakers:** Jocelyn Cesari, Author of *Encyclopedia of Islam in America* and Director of the Islam and the West program, Harvard; Daisy Kahn, Executive Director of American Society for Muslim Advancement; Farooq Kathwari, Co-Chair of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs Report on Muslim Integration and CEO of Ethan Allen Interiors, Inc.; Monica Duffy

Toft, Association Professor of Public Policy, Kennedy School, Harvard; Firas Ahmad, Deputy Editor of Islamica Magazine; Gowher Rizvi, Director of the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation; Harron K. Ullah, Dubai Initiative Fellow, Kennedy School, Harvard and Christopher Whitney, Executive Director for Studies, Chicago Council on Global Affairs.

**Location:** NYE A and B, Taubman Building, Kennedy School, Harvard

**RSVP:** Please contact Susan Valaskovic at [susan\\_valaskovic@harvard.edu](mailto:susan_valaskovic@harvard.edu) or 617-495-2744.

Members of the press are encouraged to contact Kate Hoagland, [kate\\_hoagland@harvard.edu](mailto:kate_hoagland@harvard.edu) or 617-495-4347 for additional details.

**About the Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation**

The Roy and Lila Ash Institute for Democratic Governance and Innovation advances excellence in governance and strengthens democratic institutions worldwide. Through its research, publications, leadership training, global network and awards program – developed in collaboration with a diverse, engaged community of scholars and practitioners - the Ash Institute fosters creative and effective government problem-solving and serves as a catalyst for addressing many of the most pressing needs of the world's citizens. The Ford Foundation is a founding donor of the Institute. Additional information about the Ash Institute is available at [www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu](http://www.ashinstitute.harvard.edu).

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