

# SHAYKH MUHAMMAD HISHAM KABBANI

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*A prominent scholar of classical Sufi Islam, Shaykh Muhammad Hisham Kabbani has spent his life spreading the teachings of peace, tolerance, respect and love that are the message of Sufism throughout the world. Here in the United States for the last sixteen years, Shaykh Kabbani has continued to disseminate the light and peace of Islam's spiritual dimension to people of every background, ethnicity, race, and belief.*

## EDUCATION

- Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry from the American University of Beirut, Lebanon.
- Medical studies in Louvain, Belgium.
- Degree in Islamic Divine Law, Damascus, Syria.
- License to teach, guide and counsel students in Islamic spirituality from the renowned Shaykh Muhammad Nazim Adil, authority of the Hanafi school of Islamic law in the Middle East and world leader of the Naqshbandi Haqqani Sufi Order.

## CURRENT POSITIONS HELD



- Chairman, *Islamic Supreme Council of America*



- Member of Board, *World Organization for Resource Development and Education*



- President, *The Muslim Magazine*



- U.S. Leader, *Naqshbandi Haqqani Sufi Order*

- Chairman, *As-Sunnah Foundation of America*

## RECENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

June 2006

Met with His Royal Highness Princes Charles of England to discuss the importance of Sufism in Islam and to promote universal spirituality amongst all people.

March 2006	Briefed the staff of UK Prime Minister Tony Blair on suggestions for its public diplomacy outreach to the Muslim community.
February 2006	Met personally with U.S. Vice President Richard Cheney to present his views on the cures of Islamist radicalism.
February 2006	Met with Ms. Fran Townsend, Assistant to the U.S. President for Homeland Security, and her deputy, Mr. Juan Zarate, to also discuss the cures for Islamist radicalism and responses to the “cartoon controversy”.
July 2005 & Jan 2006	Held private meetings with President Susilo Bambang Yudiyono of Indonesia and Vice President Yusuf Kalla to strengthen ongoing joint projects on “Jihadi rehabilitation” for Indonesian youth.
April 2005	Met with England’s Foreign Secretary Jack Straw to discuss current situation of Islam in Europe.
March 2005	Attended White House Faith-Based and Community Initiatives Leadership Conference and met with President Bush at a round table on the initiative.
January 2005	Gave keynote speech at the International Sufi Booksellers conference in Florida on “Importance of Spirituality and Culture in Modern Life”; conducted book signing.
December 2004	Chief guest and speaker “Global Challenges in Islam” Seminar, Singapore. Over three days spoke in three different religious forums. Met with Singapore’s Minister of Council of Islamic Affairs (MUIS), State Minister of Foreign Affairs and the State Minister for Education. Met with Rohan Gunaratna, Head of International Centre for Political Violence and Terrorism Research, to discuss methods for promoting traditional Islam and assisting “recovering” terrorists.
December 2004	Principal keynote speaker and host, International Conference of Scholars and Activists, Jakarta, Indonesia under the theme “Islam & Civil Society in the 21st Century: A Path to Transformation” addressing the topic “Principles of Leadership in War & Peace” detailing the illegitimacy of terrorism and the prohibition of suicide as a means of combat in Islam. Addressed the Friday sermon at two of Jakarta’s largest mosques and hosted during the conference, HRH Prince Raja Muda Nazrin Azlan Shah, Pro-Chancellor, University of Malaya and Crown Prince of Malaysia’s state of Perak, Dato Hishammudin Tun Hussein, Malaysia’s Minister of Education, Dato Seri Shahrizat Abdul Jalil, Malaysia’s Minister of Women, Family and Community Development, Shaykh Hazyim Muzadi, Head of Indonesia’s largest NGO, Nahdatul Ulama, US Ambassador B. Lynn Pascoe and other dignitaries at the conference.
December 2004	Met with Indonesian Vice President Jusuf Kalla at his home in Jakarta to discuss issues of state.
November 2004	Guest at the White House for the President Bush Annual Ramadan Dinner.
August 2004	Attended Sidi Shekir Conference on “Importance of Spirituality in Human Affairs,” in Marrakech, Morocco, under the patronage HRM King Mohamad VI and the Ministry of Religious Affairs.
June 2004	Keynote speaker at the northern California-based Islamic Educational and Cultural Research Center (IECRC) second annual conference.
June 2004	Met with His Excellency Hamid Karzai, President of Afghanistan and presented him with an invitation to Islamic leaders’ conference, Indonesia, winter 2004.
May 2004	Keynote speaker at Universal Muslim Association of America in Washington, DC. Topic: “Extremism is inconsistent with Islam.”
May 2004	Keynote speaker at Islamic Studies and Research Association in Columbia, SC. Topic: “Classical Islam: religion of mercy.”
May 2004	Keynote speaker at international religious conference in Indonesia. Met with Indonesia’s vice presidential candidates. In Malaysia met with Minister of Education His Excellency Tun Hishamuddin Hussein and with Crown Prince of Perak, HRH Raja Muda bin Azlan Shah.

April 2004 Keynote speaker at conference, "Beyond Radical Islam?" held by LeFrak Forum and Symposium on Science, Reason, and Modern Democracy at Michigan State University and the Ethics and Public Policy Center of Washington, DC.

January 2004 Met with His Excellency Recep Tayyip Erdogan Prime Minister of Turkey to discuss building interfaith dialogue between US academics and scholars and their Turkish counterparts.

January 2004 Keynote speech to annual board meeting of the American Foreign Policy Council.

December 2003 Represented US Muslims at 3-day interfaith conference of international religious leaders held in Spain.

October 2003 Joined President George W. Bush for Iftar at the White House. Gave the keynote address at the Nixon Center conference on Sufism and US Policy.

July and October 2003 Led two international delegations to Indonesia and Malaysia to meet with government and religious leaders as part of a campaign against religious extremism; addressed more than 100,000 Muslims in Indonesia's Mosque Istiklal, calling for religious tolerance, and opened a new institute dedicated to teaching classical Islam.

May 2003 Spoke at Conference on Islam and America, sponsored by the Ethics and Public Policy Center in Washington, DC.

May 2003 Addressed conference of federal prison chaplains sponsored by the U.S. Bureau of Prisons in Ann Arbor, Michigan; warned of danger posed by extremists within federal corrections system.

January-February 2003 Traveled across the U.S. to convene grassroots coalition meetings and community watch groups to prevent the rise of religious extremism and to promote traditional Islam.

November 2002 Met with President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Colin Powell, respectively, at White House and State Department events for Ramadan.

September 2002 Met with President George W. Bush for his official Proclamation of the Days of Remembrance and Prayers September 6-9, 2002.

August 2002 Invited as a guest of the President of Uzbekistan, Islam Karimov, to visit the republic and explore issues of religious educational development.

July 2002 Presented a paper entitled "Understanding Sharia" at the Freedom House conference in Washington, DC, as well as a paper on "Islam and Democracy" for the Ethics and Public Policy Center.

March 2002 Met with His Excellency President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan during his first official visit to the U.S. and discussed future plans for mutual cooperation.

March 2002 Met with Asst. Secretary of Defense, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz and his staff to introduce the activities of ISCA and its promotion of moderate Islam throughout the world.

March 2002 Guest speaker at the American Society for Industrial Security on the topic of "Traditional Islam in the U.S."

February 2002 Signed Memorandum of Understanding with State Minister of Indonesia on the building of civil society infrastructure and the promotion of traditional Islam.

February 2002 Met with Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of Defense, and Minister of Youth for Malaysia to discuss issues facing the Muslim world after 9-11.

September 2001 Advised numerous government agencies on issues of national security as it relates to radical religious insurgents, both domestically and abroad.

May 2001 Led the ISCA Asian Tour to Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Japan.

April 2001 Led a hundred-member delegation to the Republic of Uzbekistan as a guest of the President of Uzbekistan.

January 2001 Guest of Honor, Annual Meeting of the National Committee of American Foreign Policy.

October 2000 Met with various ministers and the President of Indonesia.

September 2000 Delegate to the UNESCO conference on inter-religious dialogue in Uzbekistan.

August 2000	Met with His Excellency President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan.
April 2000	Keynote speaker at Central Asia–Caucasus Institute (CACI) of Johns Hopkins University conference on <i>The Emergence of Religious Extremism in Central Asia and the Caucasus</i> .
March 2000	Met with His Excellency President Denktash and the foreign minister of Cyprus.
January 2000	Met with U.S. President Bill Clinton at a White House event in honor of Ramadan.
November 1999	Joined U.S. Congressional representatives in generating nationwide support for an official stamp recognizing the Islamic holy month of Ramadan.
February 1999	Hosted by President Aslan Maskhadov of Chechnya on three week fact-finding mission to Grozny and surrounding war-torn areas; shared findings with various government agencies and political analysts.
February 1, 1999	Appointed representative of the Muslim faith for Vice President Al Gore’s conference on “Corruption in Government,” February, 1999.
January 7, 1999	Keynote speaker at “Islamic Extremism” Open Forum at the U.S. Department of State.
January 6, 1999	Keynote Speaker at forum on “The Evolution of Wahhabism” at Johns Hopkins University, Central Asia – Caucasus Institute.
August 7 – 9, 1998	Chaired the 2 <sup>nd</sup> International Islamic Unity Conference in Washington, DC.

## MAJOR ACHIEVEMENTS

- Founded 23 Sufi study and meeting centers in the U.S. and Canada.
- Founded the *Islamic Supreme Council of America*, a religious organization dedicated to the dissemination of informative material on Islam and the presentation of an authentic, scholarly Islamic viewpoint on world affairs.
- Established the American branch of the *Haqqani Educational Foundation*, dedicated to promoting the fundamental teachings of Islamic belief, including tolerance, respect and peace.
- Established *As-Sunna Foundation of America* for developing, publishing and organizing conferences to provide classical Islamic education.
- Works closely with the government and people of Malaysia, Indonesia, and Singapore to restore traditional Sufi practices and prevent the increase of religious radicals in the region.
- Chairman of the highly successful *International Islamic Unity Conference*, whose second conference took place in Washington, DC from August 7-9, 1998.
- Co-developer and former General Manager of the Jeddah Medical Center in Saudi Arabia.
- Was invited by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi to attend the opening of his first healing clinic in October 1998.

## PUBLICATIONS

### BOOKS

- *Classical Islam and the Naqshbandi Sufi Way*, 840 pp. detailing Naqshbandi Sufi tradition of classical Islam.
- *The Approach to Armageddon? An Islamic Perspective*, 294 pp. details Islam’s perspectives on science and technology and prophecies regarding end times and Judgment Day.
- *Encyclopedia of Islamic Doctrine and Beliefs* - 5 years in research and writing, 1500 pp. 7-volume, set describes Islamic beliefs according to the classical approach of the major schools of jurisprudence and doctrine.
- *The Naqshbandi Sufi Way: History and Guidebook of the Saints of the Golden Chain*
- *Encyclopedia of Muhammad's Women Companions*.
- *Angels Unveiled* - a modern view of a traditional subject.

### ARTICLES (including other titles also available through [www.islamicsupremecouncil.org](http://www.islamicsupremecouncil.org))

- *Understanding Sharia - Islamic Law from the classical Islamic perspective*
- *Islam & Democracy*
- *Jihad: A Misunderstood Concept from Islam*