



**PRESS RELEASE**

February 26, 2009

For Immediate Release

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## **EBOO PATEL TO TESTIFY BEFORE SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE**

**February 25, 2009, CHICAGO, IL. Dr. Eboo Patel, Executive Director of the Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC), will testify before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on strategies for “Engaging With Muslim Communities Around the World.”**

Patel’s testimony will focus interfaith cooperation as a viable alternative to the clash of civilizations. He will also offer recommendations on how we can best engage the Muslim world, support efforts to build pluralism abroad, and partner with the Muslim-American community to forge more effective partnerships abroad.

Patel stated “

The Honorable Madeleine K. Albright, Former Secretary of State, and Admiral William J. Fallon, USN, Former Commander of the U.S. Central Command will also testify before the Committee headed by Chairman John Kerry and Senator Lugar. Patel will speak at the second panel which will also include Dalia Mogahed, Executive Director of the Gallup Center for Muslim Studies, and Zeyno Baran, Senior Fellow at the Hudson Institute.

*Patel’s testimony as submitted to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee is attached.*

### **About the Interfaith Youth Core**

There are millions of religious young people in the world interacting with greater frequency. Where so many of these interactions tend towards conflict, Interfaith Youth Core (IFYC) aims to introduce a new relationship, one that is about mutual respect and religious pluralism. Instead of focusing a dialogue on political or theological differences, IFYC builds relationships on the values that we share, such as compassion, and how we can live out those values together to contribute to the betterment of our community. The IFYC is creating these relationships across the world by inspiring, networking, and resourcing young people, who are the leaders of this movement. Among other programming including international youth exchanges and trainings, IFYC coordinates the Fellows Alliance, a network of 20 college students around the country working to promote religious pluralism on their campuses and in their communities. IFYC also partners with the Tony Blair Faith Foundation to run the Faiths Act Fellowship, an opportunity for religiously diverse young people to mobilize faith communities to advance the Millennium Development Goals.

**For more information or to contact Eboo Patel for comment, call Dan Pawlus at 312.376.4754**

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