



## Press Release

Kuwait City, Kuwait  
Tuesday, May 17, 2005

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

#### **U.S. Ambassador Richard LeBaron: U.S. Respects Islam and the Holy Quran**

U.S. Ambassador Richard LeBaron today noted the retraction of the Newsweek story which alleged that desecration of the Holy Quran took place at Guantanamo Bay.

Ambassador LeBaron said:

Newsweek has retracted its report of May 9 alleging disrespect of the Holy Quran at Guantanamo Bay. This story is false. The Department of Defense has been looking into allegations of desecration and has found nothing to substantiate them. The U.S. government will investigate all credible allegations of misconduct and will take appropriate action should misconduct occur.

Detainees at Guantanamo receive (a) adequate shelter and clothing, (b) three culturally-appropriate meals per day, (c) an opportunity to worship (including copies of the Quran and prayer beads), (d) the means to send and receive mail, (e) reading materials, and (f) exceptional medical care. Additionally, the call to prayer is played over camp loudspeakers at the appropriate times every day and detainee cells have stenciled arrows pointing the direction to Mecca.

I would like to reiterate to Muslims in Kuwait and throughout the world, disrespect for the Holy Quran is not now, nor has it ever been, nor will it ever be, tolerated by the United States. We honor the sacred books of the world's great religions. Disrespect for the Holy Quran is abhorrent to us all. The U.S. deeply respects Islam and the Holy Quran.

[end quote]