



THE ISLAM WE DON'T HEAR ABOUT

Rediscovering Emir Abd el-Kader: Teacher for the World

A story of true jihad 1803-1883

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (8-15-18)

WHO: A “barbarian,” and France’s most resilient and wily enemy for fifteen years; later became known as Algeria’s George Washington. Raised in the western reaches of the Ottoman Empire, this Arab warrior, scholar, holy man, was ultimately worn down by French scorched earth tactics. Known for humane treatment of French prisoners, Abd el-Kader’s behavior on and off the battlefield made him a forerunner of the Geneva Convention. The Emir’s bust is displayed today in the foyer of the international Red Cross (IRC) next to Swiss founder, Henri Dunant.” During his exile in Syria, he became a world hero after rescuing thousands of Christians from politically incited mobs in 1860. Muslims, Christians and Jews sang his praises. As did Abraham Lincoln, Queen Victoria, the Ottoman Sultan and simple soldiers. A town in Iowa still bears his name... Elkader.

WHAT: On this 10th anniversary of the Abdelkader Global Leadership Essay Prize awards, the Iowa based Abdelkader Education Project (AEP, Inc.) (www.abdelkaderproject.org) is bringing a much-needed positive narrative about Islam to Washington DC. A public forum at the largest United Methodist Seminary in the country will bring together Christian, Muslim and secular admirers as well as the curious to coincide with 210th anniversary of the birth of Abd el-Kader ([see program here](#)).

AEP has introduced the Abdelkader story to diverse audiences over the past ten years. Starting with an annual essay contest among Iowa high schools and colleges, AEP has found receptive partners within the religious, military, diplomatic, civic leadership and academic markets, and especially in Pakistan where *Commander of the Faithful* (www.johnwkiser.com) was translated into Urdu.

WHEN: Wednesday, September 12, 2018 –8:30 am to 4:00pm

WHERE: Wesley Theological Seminary
The Refectory
4500 Massachusetts Ave., N.W.
Washington D.C. 20016

RSVP: Free & open to the public. Space is limited, registration required ([click here](#)).

Wesley Theological Seminary, Washington DC is a leading voice of United Methodist's progressive traditionalism that deploys reason, tradition, experience and the Good Book-- a spiritual profile that matches well with that of Emir Abdelkader. President, David McAllister-Wilson.

AEP, Elkader, Iowa - www.abdelkaderproject.org. AEP promotes cultural literacy, civility and respectful engagement between all people through education and outreach drawing on Emir Abdelkader's life story and values that transcend culture and faith traditions. Co-Founders: John W. Kiser www.johnwkiser.com and Kathy Garms, AEP Executive Director.

Embassy of the People's Democratic Republic of Algeria, Washington, DC

www.algerianembassy.org The embassy of Algeria is the Republic of Algeria's diplomatic mission to the United States. Ambassador H.E. Madjid Bouguerra.

US-Algeria Business Council (USABC), Washington DC- www.us-algeria.org The USABC is a membership-driven organization representing a variety of sectors that work together in coalitions to achieve positive results in trade policy between the US and Algeria. Dr. Ismael Chikhouné, President/CEO.

###

Media Contact: For interviews, photographs or information for journalists to attend the AEP Forum

Jan Du Plain
202-486-7004
jan@duplain.com