

Name:

School/District:

Date:

DUKE UNC CONSORTIUM FOR MIDDLE EAST STUDIES OUTREACH PROGRAM

“Connecting the Middle East to the Southeast” Study Tour **Reading Guide #1**

**Instructions:** To receive 1.2 CEU credits or 12 Professional Development Contact Hours educators must successfully prepare for the tour by completing three readings and reading guides, attend the full day on August 11, and complete a post-program reflection. Reading guides can be turned in during the morning of the Study Tour, or you may email or mail this completed document to Emma Harver before at:

**Email:** harver@email.unc.edu

**Mail:** Emma Harver, CCSMEMC, 301 Pittsboro St., CB #7582, UNC at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7582

**Readings**: Gani, Aisha. (2015, June 17). Ramadan: a guide to the Islamic holy month. *The Guardian*. Retrieved from <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/jun/17/ramadan-guide-to-islamic-holy-month-muslims-fast>.

Obama, Barack. (2015, June 22). *Remarks by the President at the 2015 Iftar Dinner.* Speech presented at the White House, East Room, Washington. D.C. Retrieved from <https://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2015/06/23/remarks-president-2015-iftar-dinner>.

1. **What is the significance of the annual iftar at the White House?**

**2. In Obama’s address, he remarked: “Here in America, many people personally don’t know someone who is Muslim. They mostly hear about Muslims in the news -- and that can obviously lead to a very distorted impression.” How might this be applicable to your students? How can you tell if they mostly get their information about Muslims or the Middle East in general from the mass media? Why is this perspective not enough in formulating a complete understanding?**

**3. What impact do you think President Obama’s celebration of Ramadan has on relations with the Muslim community? Members of other faiths (for better or for worse)?**