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Real-Life Stories of American Muslims Wanted for 'One Nation, Many Voices' Online Film Contest

Contest provides online forum for Americans of all faiths to affirm pluralism, freedom of religion

SAN FRANCISCO — Following last year's groundbreaking success, One Nation and Link TV announced today the launch of a second "One Nation, Many Voices" online film contest. The project aims to promote diversity, pluralism, and respect for religious freedom of all Americans by providing an online forum for real-life stories about American Muslims.

"We measure success in a couple of ways, one of which is the sheer volume of participation we saw in over 120 film entries from around the country, and the web visitors who cast over 18,000 votes for their favorite films," said Kim Spencer, President of Link TV. "Another indication is the quality of the submissions and how the contest has provided a megaphone for last year's winners to spread their messages as filmmakers. Lena Khan has achieved great success, and we hope the contest provides that kind of platform for this year's participants."

Khan's grand-prize-winning music video from last year, "A Land Called Paradise" has been licensed by the State Department for use on its America.gov Web site and for presentation to 30 foreign embassies. It has since become an Internet sensation, noted on Jordanian Queen Rania's Web site as a "Favorite" and receiving hundreds of thousands of hits on YouTube and various blogs.

This year's contest issues a call for entries in the following five categories:

- 60-second PSA spots about American Muslims' contribution to public service
- 5-minute videos about a unique aspect of American Muslim traditions
- 5-minute profiles of American Muslim women in leadership roles
- 5-minute profiles of outstanding American Muslim youth
- 5-minute video co-produced by people of different religious traditions about interfaith friendships

All entries must be submitted online at www.onenationfilmcontest.org by Sept. 26. Online users will be invited to log on, vote for their favorite entries and share comments in an online forum. Online votes will be tallied to select a group of finalists from each category.

The finalists will then be evaluated by a diverse panel of judges including Lena Khan, Rock and Roll Hall of Famer Kenneth Gamble, Academy Award-winning (Thelma & Louise) writer Callie Khouri, country western singer Kareem Salama, comedian Preacher Moss, Jesuit scholar Chris Lowney, and Ausma Khan, editor-in-chief of *Muslim Girl* Magazine. They will select winners from each category,



who each receive a \$5,000 cash prize, and the overall grand prize winner, who will be awarded \$20,000.

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About One Nation: One Nation is a philanthropic collaborative that sponsors initiatives that challenge stereotypes and misperceptions of Muslims and Islam by shining a spotlight on our shared values, beliefs and responsibilities. For more information, visit www.onenationforall.org

About Link TV: Link TV is a non-commercial network devoted to global issues, available in more than 31 million U.S. homes receiving DIRECTV and DISH Network, and on select urban cable and university campus channels. Link connects Americans with the world by engaging, informing, and motivating people to become involved. Visit www.linktv.org