

## A Ramadan Eve for Peace and Reconstruction

On the Eve of International Day of Peace, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Iraqi AlAmal Association, AlMada for Media, Culture, and Arts, Kerrada District Council in Baghdad, and the Iraqi Council for Peace and Solidarity organized a Ramadan Eve, held on the location of one of the deadliest bomb attacks targeting civilians in Baghdad, that took place in one of Kerrada neighborhoods (AlAbbassiyin) last July 26<sup>th</sup>, with more than 100 deaths and hundreds of casualties. The location where the ceremony was held resembles all other places in Iraq that has went through destructive terrorism attacks,



The programme included an Iftar meal for victim families, recital of verses from Quran, speech on behalf of ceremony organizers, emphasizing role of civil society organizations and commending solidarity and social coexistence and citizenship between all slices of society, away from sectarianism, and affiliations threatening Iraqi identity and dissecting Iraq,



District

Followed by a Play, performed by a group of young Iraqi students from the “Hayat” theatrical group of Iraqi AlAmal Association, the play scenes showed vividly a glimpse of the stories of several grieving victims. Live witnesses from the victim families shared their stories of survival and still suffering under difficult conditions with the audience, the programme also included poems, and a show by a Folkloric Sports’ team of “ZorKhana”, the final activity was a game of folkloric Ramadhan game (show the ring) “Mhaibis” between champion teams of Kerrada district and Za’farraniya

The event was attended by prominent media, political, and religious figures, NGOs' representatives and a big crowd from the Kerrada neighborhoods. This activity continued till after midnight, and is considered the first event of a kind for the past years as it was presented in an open street, demonstrating a challenge to the difficult security situation that Baghdad has been going through for quite sometime,



At the end of the event, a Call by the participants was voiced, addressing all governmental and non governmental organizations, to hurry reconstruction efforts on the three demolished buildings and neighboring houses in Kerrada areas, and to support victim families, bringing back life and light to their homes, the call also denounced all kinds of violence and terror that Iraqis have been suffering from, while emphasizing solidarity and coexistence between society members,