



# e-Newsletter

**HONORARY CONSULATE GENERAL OF SYRIA**  
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*"Syria, the cradle of civilization and the gateway to history."*

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## Imad Moustapha: Ambassador of Syria in Washington



First time I met Imad Moustapha it was in early 2000. I was newly appointed Honorary Consul General, and was working on the founding of NOSSTIA (Network of Syrian Scientists and Innovators Abroad). He was at the time the Secretary General of the Arab School in Damascus (organization specialized in the spread of technology in the Arab World) I Had very pleasant experience collaborating with him and very soon a friendship was struck between the two of us. And gradually, I started discovering his different talents and cultural interests; and became regular reader of his column in "Abyadd wa Asswad" (first private magazine in Syria) where he used to express his views on subjects ranging from music, and art, to politics, and current affaires.

When the US/Syrian dialogue took place at James Baker Institute in April 2002 we were on the same delegation. He had become at that time the Dean of the Faculty of Computer Science in Damascus, and his star within the Syrian government was rising fast. Few months later he called me from Washington telling me he was appointed the Vice-Ambassador of Syria in charge of public diplomacy. It was a surprise to everyone including himself!

Iraq war started in spring 2003, and Dr. Moustapha found himself running from one TV channel to another. All TV anchors were interested in having him on their program, and finding more from him about Syria's position on the developing war in Iraq.



In early 2004 he became the Ambassador of Syria in Washington. but the honeymoon was short lived. Diplomatic relationship between Syria and past US administration was becoming strained, and going on a downward spiral; and events in the Middle East were going from bad to worse. I recall calling him one day during the dark moments of the 2006 war in South Lebanon, he was tired and told me: " I just came out of my tenth TV interview for the day."



Despite the difficult conditions imposed on him in Washington he had some breakthroughs. He orchestrated the successful visit of Nancy Pelosi with a high delegation from the US congress to Syria in 2007. And he continues to find friends and allies for Syria in Washington, and to voice and defend with courage Syria's position and policy.

I am very glad that Dr. Moustapha will be visiting us in Detroit the weekend of March 7th. I would like to invite all Syrians in South East Michigan to meet his Excellency over a brunch on Sunday March 8th, at the Silver Garden Hall on 24350 Southfield Rd. Breakfast starts at 10am, and ambassador remarks are at 11am followed by a Q&A session. Admission is free but reservation is required, and can be made by sending an email to [reservation@SyrianConsulate.org](mailto:reservation@SyrianConsulate.org) with your name and number of people in your company.

The ambassador will be also the keynote speaker at the banquet of An-Nahda Cultural and Social Association on Saturday March 7th. For more information about An-Nahda's event, or for tickets please call (313) 903-5547.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on Sunday March 8th.

**Dr. Naji Arwashan**  
**Honorary Consul General**