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**Federal President Frank-Walter Steinmeier
to Muslim communities at the end of Ramadan
at Schloss Bellevue
on 12 May 2021**

At the end of Ramadan, I send you my warmest greetings and my best wishes for a blessed Festival of the Breaking of the Fast!

Eid-ul-Fitr is a festival of hospitality, a festival for everyone, for Muslim families and for their friends. That this year's get-together at the end of Ramadan is now the second in a row under the restrictions imposed on us by the pandemic is a bitter blow. The Festival of the Breaking of the Fast is more than something joyful to look forward to after a long period of sacrifice. It is also a shared experience. One which we do not want to celebrate in a small group but with the entire family and with many other believers.

I would like to thank you most sincerely for accepting this disappointment and the sacrifice of not gathering in large numbers during this prolonged pandemic. And, with a heavy heart, I must ask you once more to exercise restraint as well as to be understanding that this year again, Eid-ul-Fitr can only be celebrated on a very small scale. Ultimately, however, I do this in the hope that – as the vaccine rollout speeds up and after all the sacrifices we have made – we will all be able to come together to enjoy the company of others again in the near future. Your willingness to abide by the rules at this present time is a vital contribution towards our society as a whole. For that, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart.

In many religions, the inner contemplation during a period of fasting is linked to the concept of reconciliation, reconciliation with God. I hope that this pandemic we have endured together has brought religious communities in our country, as well as the many people who do not belong to any religion, closer together.

After refraining from large-scale joint celebrations, I hope that Muslims will be rewarded with a much bigger festival very soon.

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