



Written message from the Federal President Steinmeier to mark Eid ul-Fitr 2023

Ramadan is ending, and the three-day breaking of the fast is beginning. I wish all of the Muslims of Germany a happy Eid ul-Fitr!

This weekend, Muslim families, friends and neighbours will come together across our country to share in a celebratory meal as they mark the end of the month of fasting. After the days of abstinence and quiet contemplation, after the joyful nights of breaking the fast together with their loved ones, they will now celebrate community and the pleasures of life.

The festival that marks the end of Ramadan is one of the largest religious festivals in our country. I am pleased that many communities are once again inviting the public to join them in the breaking of the fast this year. And I hope that many people of other religions or none will take this opportunity to enter into conversation with Muslims and learn more about the second most important Islamic festival. The more we reach out to one another within our diverse society with curiosity, respect and an open heart, the better we will be able to coexist amid all of our differences!

The Festival of the Breaking of the Fast is also a festival of giving and sharing, a celebration of solidarity. At the end of Ramadan, Muslims traditionally perform zakāt al-fitr, donating to those who are poor and in need. And in recent weeks in particular, following the terrible earthquake in Turkey and Syria, countless Muslims, Islamic communities and organisations from Germany have supported the people in the disaster zone with donations and other forms of assistance, and are continuing to do so.

Today I wish to extend my sincere thanks to all of these helpers! Together with many other dedicated people in our country, you are demonstrating to us that what defines and unites us as humans is sympathy, empathy and the readiness to help. And from this practical

solidarity we can draw hope and optimism. It is a thin ray of light even in these dark days of war, crises and catastrophes!

The great ambassador for peace Mevlüde Genç, who passed away last October, once said: "God fills my heart with the feeling of friendship and fraternity. This brings me comfort and allows me to show love for my fellow humans."

For us to feel united with other people in friendship and fraternity, within our families, within our circles of friends, within society and across borders – that is what I wish for you and for all of us. All the best for the Festival of the Breaking of the Fast!