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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **KARAMAH Celebrates First Women to Win Seats in Kuwait Parliament**

(Washington, DC – May 18, 2009) KARAMAH celebrates a historic milestone as Kuwaitis elect female parliament members for the first time in history. After failing to win parliamentary seats in two previous elections since women gained the right to vote and run for office in 2005, four women were elected in a vote on Saturday, May 16.

The winners were Rola Dashti, an economist; Salwa al-Jassar and Aseel al-Awadi, who are both professors; and Massouma al-Mubarak, who in 2005 became the country's first female cabinet minister.

KARAMAH recognizes this latest achievement for women's rights as a source of pride not only for Kuwait but for the entire region.

"At a time when more Kuwaiti women are coming forward to take their rightful place in the country's democracy, this landmark electoral victory is a sign that Kuwaiti society is making strides in empowering its women," said Dr. Azizah al-Hibri, President of KARAMAH.

### **About KARAMAH**

Founded in 1993 with offices in Washington, DC, KARAMAH is a charitable, educational organization that focuses on the domestic and global issues of human rights, particularly those of Muslim women. Karamah is Founded upon the ideal that education, dialogue, and action can counter the dangerous and destructive effects of ignorance, silence and prejudice. Its three primary divisions are **Law and Leadership**, **Family Law**, and **Islamic Law**. For media inquiries or for more information, contact Jina Hassan at [jhassan@karamah.org](mailto:jhassan@karamah.org) or call 202-234-7302.

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