

September 22, 2008

Iraqi Embassy  
1801 P Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Iraqi Embassy,

I'm submitting some layouts for the Iraqi flag redesign contest. I hope I haven't missed the end-of-September deadline.

I'm an American, and I'm not Moslem. Still, I hope you'll consider these submissions as serious. I'm a graphic designer, and I was excited by this challenge.

The Iraqi people have a long, proud history, and their nation has a rich cultural tradition. Iraq deserves a strong flag, one that shares qualities with the flags of its neighbors, but which is unique and stands out more than the current flag.

Whatever the final design, I suggest the Iraqi flag *needs more green*, the color of Islam. A committee might add a gold star to symbolize the Kurds, but I urge you to resist that temptation; a flag needs to represent an entire nation and all its peoples.

In these designs, the five-pointed star represents the five pillars of Islam and the five syllables of the *takbir*—*Allahu Akbar*. The lion depicted is from the Ishtar Gate and is meant to represent strength and resolve, and harkens back to a time of regained glory.

These designs are in Adobe Illustrator CS1. I can certainly send Illustrator files or pdf's as e-mail attachments to any e-mail address.

Sincerely,

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