Proposal to encode seventeen Arabic honorifics

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Background
Unicode includes two sets of Arabic honorifics, one as combining marks at U+0610..0614 (mostly for use in Pakistan, proposed in L2/01-425), and another at U+FDF0..FDF2 (all around the Muslim world). But the encoded set is far from complete.

The characters proposed here are commonly used by both Sunni and Shi’a Muslims around the world. The last four are mostly used by the Persian- and Arabic-speaking Shi’a Muslims in Iran and Iraq. The user community has been using hacked fonts or images in order to represent the missing ones, or when missing fonts, using parenthesized abbreviations.

Several variations in glyph shape exist among the proposed characters, but they are interchangeable and would all refer to the same semantics when the underlying phrase is the same.

Proposal
Encode the following characters in the Unicode Standard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Codepoint</th>
<th>Name and notes</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>☪</td>
<td>FD40</td>
<td>ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHU ALLAAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☪</td>
<td>FD41</td>
<td>ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHIUM ALLAAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☪</td>
<td>FD42</td>
<td>ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHIUMAA ALLAAH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>☪</td>
<td>FD43</td>
<td>ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANH</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ARABIC LIGATURE</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD44</td>
<td>RADI ALLAAHU ANHAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD45</td>
<td>RADI ALLAAHU ANHUM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD46</td>
<td>RADI ALLAAHU ANHUMAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD47</td>
<td>SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD48</td>
<td>SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIHEE WA-SALLAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD49</td>
<td>ALAYHI AS-SALAAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD4A</td>
<td>ALAYHAA AS-SALAAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD4B</td>
<td>ALAYHIM AS-SALAAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD4C</td>
<td>ALAYHIMAA AS-SALAAM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD4D</td>
<td>QUDDISA SIRRAH</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD4E</td>
<td>QUDDISA SIRRAHUM</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FD4F</td>
<td>QUDDISA SIRRAHUMAA</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FDFE</td>
<td>AJJALA ALLAAHU TAAALAA FARAJAHU ASH-SHARIF</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The main character properties should be as follows:

FD40;ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHU ALLAAH;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD41;ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHUM ALLAAH;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD42;ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHUMAA ALLAAH;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD43;ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANH;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD44;ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANHAA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD45;ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANHUM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD46;ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANHUMAA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD47;ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIH;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD48;ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIHEE
     WA-SALLAM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD49;ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHI AS-SALAAM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD4A;ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHAA AS-SALAAM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD4B;ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHIM AS-SALAAM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD4C;ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHIMAA AS-SALAAM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD4D;ARABIC LIGATURE QUDDISA SIRRAN;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD4E;ARABIC LIGATURE QUDDISA SIRRAHUM;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FD4F;ARABIC LIGATURE QUDDISA SIRRAHUMAA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;
FDFE;ARABIC LIGATURE AJJALA ALLAAHU TAAALAA FARAJAHU
     ASH-SHARIF;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;

The script property for all the characters should be Arabic. All other properties should be similar to U+FDFD ARABIC LIGATURE BISMILLAH AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHEEM.

Suggestion for NamesLists.txt

@ Honorific word ligatures
FD40 ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHU ALLAAH
     x (arabic sign rahmatullah alayhe - 0612)
FD41 ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHUM ALLAAH
FD42 ARABIC LIGATURE RAHIMAHUMAA ALLAAH
FD43 ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANH
     x (arabic sign radi allahou anhu - 0613)
FD44 ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANHAA
FD45 ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANHUM
FD46 ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANHUMAA
FD47 ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIH
     x (arabic ligature sallallahou alayhe wasallam - FDFA)
FD48 ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIHEE WA-SALLAM
FD49 ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHI AS-SALAAM
     x (arabic sign alayhe assallam - 0611)
FD4A ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHA AS-SALAAM
FD4B  ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHIM AS-SALAAM
FD4C  ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHIMAA AS-SALAAM
FD4D  ARABIC LIGATURE QUDDISA SIRRAH
FD4E  ARABIC LIGATURE QUDDISA SIRR AHUM
FD4F  ARABIC LIGATURE QUDDISA SIRR AHUMAA

FDFF  ARABIC LIGATURE AJJALA ALLAAHU TAAALAA FARAJAHU ASH-SHARIF

Notes

1. The two characters proposed at FD47 ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIH and FD48 ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIHEE WA-SALLAM are alternate versions of U+FDFA ﷺ ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAHOU ALAYHE WASALLAM. All three are used as an honorific for the prophet Muhammad. The two new proposed characters add the word ﻣٰлٰهٰ “and his family”, which, although used by both the sunni and the shia’a, is used more by the shia’s since the prophet’s family has a special importance among the shi’a.

2. The character names match the existing patterns in Unicode character names. The following patterns have been used:
   a. The phrases have been transcribed with a key similar to that used in U+FDFD ARABIC LIGATURE BISMILLAH AR-RAHMAN AR-RAHEEM and the Quranic characters accepted at U+08D5..08D2 (see L2/14-105), as opposed to U+FDF0..FDFB and U+0610..0613, since the former pattern is more common among Arabic speakers.

3. Characters have been arranged in groups of two, three, or four. In each group, they are sorted alphabetically based on the part of the word that changes (male, female, plural, and dual, in that order).

4. Evidence of usage in fonts or text was not found for the female forms RAHIMAHAA ALLAAAH and QUDDISA SIRRAHAA. They are not proposed here.
Samples of usage

Figure 1. Sample of usage of proposed FD4D ARABIC LIGATURE QUDDISA SIRRAH from Var’i 2006. Note that both usages come from the same font, although they are surrounded by fonts of different styles and weight.

Figure 2. Sample of usage of proposed FD49 ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHI AS-SALAAM and FD47 ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAAHU ALAYHI WA-AALIH from Var’i 2006.
Figure 3. Sample of usage of proposed FD49 ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHI AS-SALAAM and FD4B ARABIC LIGATURE ALAYHIM AS-SALAAM from Var’i 2006. Note the circled phrase on the last line, the parenthesized (عﺞ)، which is a replacement for U+FDFE ARABIC LIGATURE AJJALA ALLAAHU TAAALAA FARAJAHU ASH-SHARIF that was probably not available in the production environment.

Figure 4. Sample of usage of U+F DFA ARABIC LIGATURE SALLALLAHOU ALAYHE WASALLAM and the proposed FD43 ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANH from the Kazakh Wikipedia. The male honorific is mistakenly used after the name of Aisha, the youngest wife of the prophet. Correct grammatical usage would have been FD44 ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANHA.
INTRODUCTION

AH/1135-1199 AD) and Saint Nishār Ṭalaba (d.417 AH/1026 AD), and Saint Shāhul Ḥamīd Ṭalī (910-978 AH/1504-1570 AD), Nadwi’s book does not mention even a single person of the region. Foreign scholars living farther from the Arwi Muslims appear to know more than

Figure 5. Sample of usage of the proposed FD43 ARABIC LIGATURE RADI ALLAAHU ANH in the English language from Alim 1993, page XLI.

in the place called Periapattinam - an area in the ancient city called Pauttira Mānikka Pattinam (page 53).

(c) The tomb of Ḥabīl, son of Ādām, is in Rameswaram Island. The ruler of Ramnad, Muthukumāra Vijaya Ragunatha Sethupathi, endowed a village called Pudukulam in 1745 to the said shrine (page 43). (When this writer visited this shrine, he

Figure 6. The honorific alayhi as-salaat was-salaam (عليه الصلاة وسلم) in English text, from Alim 1993, page 5. The character is not proposed here as the author has not seen it is used in other texts.

Acknowledgments

The author is grateful to Karim Senussi who helped him with information about the Sunni usage of the honorifics and proofread the character names.

Bibliography

# ISO/IEC JTC 1/SC 2/WG 2
## PROPOSAL SUMMARY FORM TO ACCOMPANY SUBMISSIONS
FOR ADDITIONS TO THE REPERTOIRE OF ISO/IEC 10646

### A. Administrative

1. Title: **Proposal to encode seventeen Arabic honorifics**
2. Requester's name: **Roozbeh Pournader**
3. Requester Type (Member body/Liaison/Individual contribution): **Individual Contribution**
4. Submission date: **June 12, 2014**
5. Requester's reference, if applicable: **N/A**
6. Choose one of the following:
   - This is a complete proposal: **Yes**
   - (or) More information will be provided later: **No**

### B. Technical – General

1. Choose one of the following:
   - a. This proposal is for a new script (set of characters): **No**
      - Proposed name of script: **N/A**
   - b. The proposal is for addition of character(s) to an existing block: **Yes**
      - Name of existing block: **Arabic Presentation Forms-A**
2. Number of characters in proposal: **17**
3. Proposed category: **A-Contemporary**
4. Is a repertoire including character names provided? **Yes**
   - a. If YES, are the names in accordance with the “character naming guidelines” in Annex L of P&P document? **Yes**
   - b. Are the character shapes attached in a legible form suitable for review? **Yes**
5. Fonts related:
   - a. Who will provide the appropriate computerized font to the Project Editor of 10646 for publishing the standard? **Probably Michael Everson**
   - b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address, e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): **N/A**
6. References:
   - a. Are references (to other character sets, dictionaries, descriptive texts etc.) provided? **Yes**
   - b. Are published examples of use (such as samples from newspapers, magazines, or other sources) of proposed characters attached? **Yes**
7. Special encoding issues:
   - Does the proposal address other aspects of character data processing (if applicable) such as input, presentation, sorting, searching, indexing, transliteration etc. (if yes please endorse information)? **Yes**
8. Additional information:
   Submitters are invited to provide any additional information about Properties of
the proposed Character(s) or Script that will assist in correct understanding of and correct linguistic processing of the proposed character(s) or script. Examples of such properties are: Casing information, Numeric information, Currency information, Display behaviour information such as line breaks, widths etc., Combining behaviour, Spacing behaviour, Directional behaviour, Default Collation behaviour, relevance in Mark Up contexts, Compatibility equivalence and other Unicode normalization related information. See the Unicode standard at http://www.unicode.org for such information on other scripts. Also see Unicode Character Database (http://www.unicode.org/reports/tr44/) and associated Unicode Technical Reports for information needed for consideration by the Unicode Technical Committee for inclusion in the Unicode Standard.

C. Technical - Justification

1. Has this proposal for addition of character(s) been submitted before? No
   If YES explain: N/A

2. Has contact been made to members of the user community (for example: National Body, user groups of the script or characters, other experts, etc.)? Yes
   If YES, with whom? The author used to live in Iran and has seen frequent examples of usage.
   If YES, available relevant documents: N/A

3. Information on the user community for the proposed characters (for example: size, demographics, information technology use, or publishing use) is included? Yes
   Reference: See above

4. The context of use for the proposed characters (type of use; common or rare): Common. Some of them comparatively rare.
   Reference: N/A

5. Are the proposed characters in current use by the user community? Yes
   If YES, where? Reference: See above

6. After giving due considerations to the principles in the P&P document must the proposed characters be entirely in the BMP? Yes
   If YES, is a rationale provided? Yes. Need to be next to similar characters.
   If YES, reference: N/A

7. Should the proposed characters be kept together in a contiguous range (rather than being scattered)? No

8. Can any of the proposed characters be considered a presentation form of an existing character or character sequence? Yes
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? Yes
   If YES, reference: Similarity to already-encoded characters and different usage.

9. Can any of the proposed characters be encoded using a composed character sequence of either existing characters or other proposed characters? Yes
   If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? Yes
   If YES, reference: See above

10. Can any of the proposed character(s) be considered to be similar (in appearance or function) to, or could be confused with, an existing character? Yes
If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? **Yes. The proposed characters have different identities.**
If YES, reference: **See above**

11. Does the proposal include use of combining characters and/or use of composite sequences? **No**
   If YES, is a rationale for such use provided? **N/A**
   If YES, reference: **N/A**
   Is a list of composite sequences and their corresponding glyph images (graphic symbols) provided? **N/A**
   If YES, reference: **N/A**

12. Does the proposal contain characters with any special properties such as control function or similar semantics? **No**
   If YES, describe in detail (include attachment if necessary): **B/A**

13. Does the proposal contain any Ideographic compatibility characters? **No**
   If YES, are the equivalent corresponding unified ideographic characters identified? **N/A**
   If YES, reference: **N/A**