Proposal to encode an Arabic honorific used in Christian texts

Roozbeh Pournader (WhatsApp) and Lorna Evans (SIL International)
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Background
The Unicode Technical Committee, in its recent meetings, has accepted eighteen Arabic honorifics proposed by the first author and others. Only characters for which we could find examples in running text in published material were proposed. Since, we have found another honorific in published material, this time in Christian religious texts.

Proposal
Encode the following character in the Unicode Standard:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Codepoint</th>
<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>🌸</td>
<td>FDCF</td>
<td>ARABIC LIGATURE SALAAMUHU ALAYNAA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The main character properties should be as follows:
FDCF;ARABIC LIGATURE SALAAMUHU ALAYNAA;So;0;ON;;;;;N;;;;;

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

Notes
1. The phrase سلامه علينا ("his blessing on us") appears to have originated among Egyptian Copts, to later spread among other Arabic-speaking Christians.
2. The character name matches the existing patterns in Unicode character names. The Arabic phrase has 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..U+08D2 (see L2/14-105), as opposed to U+FDP0..U+FDFB and U+0610..U+0613. This is because the former pattern is more common among Arabic speakers.
3. The following twenty-three forms exist in some honorific fonts, but we haven’t yet found evidence for their usage in published material. They may be proposed later:
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Spelled out form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>سلام الله عليهم اجمعين</td>
<td>رضوان الله عليهم اجمعين</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>صلوات الله عليها</td>
<td>صلوات الله عليها</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>صلوات الله عليها</td>
<td>صلوات الله عليها</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>عليه</td>
<td>عليه</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Spelled out form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>رحمها الله</td>
<td>رحمهم الله</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>قدس سرهم</td>
<td>قدس سرهم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>قدس سرهم</td>
<td>قدس سرهم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>عليه تعالى</td>
<td>عجل الله تعالى</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>عليه تعالى</td>
<td>فرحه الشريف</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Spelled out form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>سُليمان فواس</td>
<td>سُليمان فواس</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Glyph</th>
<th>Spelled out form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ﺎـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ</td>
<td>ﺎـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>ﺎـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ ﺔـﻤٓـ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>علی عليه</td>
<td>رحمة الله عليه</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>علی بیضاء</td>
<td>رحمة الله عليها</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>علی کبیر</td>
<td>رحمة الله عليهم</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>علی اکبر</td>
<td>رحمة الله عليهما</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>علی حسن</td>
<td>رحمة الله عليهن</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>حفظه الله</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>حفظها الله</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>حفظهم الله</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>جل وعلا</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Sample of usage

Figure 1. Example of usage from al-Nasrī 2019, p. 653.

Figure 2. Example of usage from Jatāwī 2017, p. 264.
Figure 3. The honorific in spelled-out calligraphic form, from al-Nasrī 2019, p. 641.

Bibliography

A. Administrative

1. Title: Proposal to encode an Arabic honorific used in Christian texts
2. Requester’s name: Roozbeh Pournader and Lorna Evans
3. Requester Type: Expert Contribution
4. Submission date: March 10, 2020
5. Requester’s reference, if applicable: N/A
6. Choose one of the following:
   (or) More information will be provided later: 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: 1
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? Lorna Evans
   b. Identify the party granting a license for use of the font by the editors (include address,
      e-mail, ftp-site, etc.): SIL International
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 user community has contacted SIL International to help get the character encoded in Unicode**
   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): **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)? N/A
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? **No**
    If YES, is a rationale for its inclusion provided? N/A
    If YES, reference: N/A
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): **N/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**